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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023

NO. 52



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and blessings this holiday season
and in the new year.

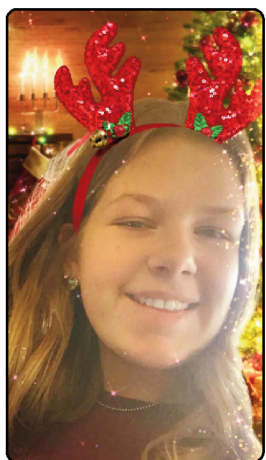
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McPherson County Public Proceedings

McPHERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND BOARD OF EQUALIZATION PROCEEDINGS

December 11, 2023

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met as per adjournment of November 8, 2023, for their regular monthly meeting. Notice of meeting having been posted in *The Stapleton Enterprise* issue dated December 7, 2023, and the McPherson County Website, www.mcphersoncounty.ne.gov. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chairman Arensdorf, who noted the Open Meetings Law, which is posted on the North wall of the meeting room. Members John Bryant, Brett Nason and Jeff Arensdorf were present. Also present were the Highway Superintendent Tom Werblow, Sheriff Tom Burch, and County Clerk Kathy Hoberg. Nason made a motion to excuse the County Attorney. Bryant seconded. Voting Aye: Nason, Bryant and Arensdorf. Voting Nay: None. Bryant moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Nason seconded. Voting Aye: Bryant, Nason and Arensdorf. Voting Nay: None.

After examination, Nason made a motion to approve the following claims as presented. Bryant seconded. Voting Aye: Nason, Bryant and Arensdorf. Voting Nay: None.

GENERAL Payroll
Wages.....28,000.49
Ameritas
Retirement.....1,628.88
Applied Connective
IT Consultant798.60
Blue Cross Blue Shield Health
Insurance.....7,676.16
Richard Cook
Weed Mileage31.44
Custer Public Power
Lights/
Electricity.....602.79
DAS St. Accounting
Computer
Expense.....172.00
Eakes Office Plus
Office Supplies.....63.84
Great Plains
Communication
Telephone/
Internet.....531.85
Great Plains
Communication
Emergency
Management.....57.96
Ideal Linen
Supplies.....265.68
IRS
SS/Medicare2,088.51
J13 Enterprises LLC
Budget Prep.....2,355.89
Chelsey McNutt
Park Contract287.50
MIPS
Data Processing/
Computer.....1,085.78
Neal Oil & Auto
Fuel/Supplies.....672.00
NE Safety & Fire Equip
Inspections.....40.00
Whitney Schroeder
Mileage/Child Support.
Enforce102.18
Select Carpet & Tile



Carpet
Stretching201.00
Stan's Guns
Sheriff Ammo112.50
Stapleton Enterprise
Printing/
Publishing.....192.07
US Bank
Office/Janitor
Supplies.....204.95
Verizon
County Court
Phone.....53.85
Viaero
Sheriff Phone83.09
Village of Stapleton
Trash Disposal ...2,728.00

ROAD
Payroll
Wages.....14,350.63
Ameritas
Retirement.....901.17
ATC Group Services
Road Sample
Test.....1,800.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield Health
Insurance2,549.22
Bomgaars Supply
Equipment329.99
Croell Inc.
Gravel34,245.15
Dawson Tire & Wheel
Tire Repair.....3,033.53
Great Plains Comm
Phone/Internet106.97
Inland Truck Parts Co.
Equipment
Repairs.....247.05
IRS
County Share
SS/Med1,095.48
JM Parts & Equipment
Supplies.....97.20
Level LLC
Hauling.....4,745.00
McPherson Co.
Inheritance
Reimbursement
Payments.....2,076.35
Neal Oil & Auto
Fuel/Supplies....7,311.94
NE Safety & Fire
Inspections.....21.00
TC Engineering
Highway Supt.....750.00
Titan Machinery
Equipment.....176.00

FAIR
Ideal Linen
Supplies.....77.22

SENIOR MEAL PROGRAM
Prairie Hills Café
Senior Meals.....3,450.00
Rich Cook was present and presented the board with a Weed Report. Each commissioner was given a written copy of the report, and it was signed by Chairman Arensdorf.

The commissioners were given a copy of a letter sent to the owners of Block 5 & 6 in Tryon, regarding possible zoning violations. The letter was prepared by the County Attorney and hand delivered by the Sheriff. The owners have been given copies of the Zoning regulations regarding prohibited agricultural uses in the zoning area. The owners have communicated their willingness to comply.

At 10:00 A.M., Caleb Johnson was present and talked to the board about a new Budget Preparation contract proposal. Nason made a motion to approve and sign a contract with J3 Enterprises, LLC for fiscal year 2024-2025, and accept the option to extend the offer at

the rate of \$2,200.00 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and fiscal year 2026-2027. Bryant seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Nason, Bryant and Arensdorf. Voting Nay: None.

The commissioners discussed roads with Ed Black. The road workers have been repairing holes and adding rock and gravel to the roads. The Western Star semi-truck had tires replaced, and the transmission and clutch are being replaced in the dump truck.

Tom Werblow gave the commissioners a copy of a soil stabilization test report he received from Atlas Technical, Dallas, Texas.

The testing was done on a sample of the asphalt taken from Soddy Road. There was continued discussion about grinding the asphalt and adding materials to replace the asphalt roads in McPherson County.

The board examined the December Road Plan presented by Nason. Bryant made a motion to approve the plan, removing the Melvin Road which has been completed except for maintenance. Arensdorf seconded. Voting Aye: Bryant, Arensdorf and Nason. Voting Nay: None.

There was a safety committee meeting held. Tom Werblow gave flyers and a presentation about Carbon Monoxide Poisoning and Diesel Fuel. Those present were, Jeff Arensdorf, Brett Nason, John Bryant, Kathy Hoberg, Tom Burch, and Ed Black.

The county sheriff's position was discussed. The county was contacted by Hireclick.com regarding advertising for the position. The commissioners decided not to pursue a contract with them. The position has been posted again on the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center website, the McPherson County website and the NACO website.

The commissioners looked at some repairs needed inside and outside of the courthouse. The treasurer will request some price quotes and pursue grants for payment of the projects.

Bryant moved to designate *The Stapleton Enterprise* as the official McPherson County newspaper for 2024. Nason seconded. Voting Aye: Bryant, Nason and Arensdorf. Voting Nay: None.

Shareen Munson, Prairie Hills Café, asked the clerk to inform the commissioners of the need to raise the donation portion of the senior meals to \$6.00 per meal. The increase is necessary due to the rise in the cost of preparing the meals. McPherson County serves as a contractor with West Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging to perform as the service provider for the program. McPherson County contracts with Prairie Hills Café to prepare and provide the meals. All funds are paid to Prairie Hills Café from West Central Area Agency on Aging and the public donations. McPherson County does not contribute, nor use taxpayer funds for this program.

The commissioners were each given a copy of the November and December Fund Balance Reports from the Treasurer.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:25 AM to meet again at 9:00 AM on January 10, 2024, for their annual organizational meeting. This meeting will be held at the McPherson County Courthouse in Tryon and is open to the public.

Katherine E. Hoberg, McPherson County Clerk
Jeffrey J. Arensdorf, McPherson County Board Chairman
Publish: December 21, 2023 ZNEZ

Notices are your right to know.... be an informed citizen and read the notices & proceedings

School District R-1 Regular Meeting Proceedings

Board of Education Meeting
Stapleton Public Schools

District 57-0501
December 11, 2023

President F. Kramer called the regular meeting of the Stapleton Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2023, in the library at Stapleton Public Schools.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited; the board norms were read aloud.

President F. Kramer observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Rich Burnside: Present, Chance Connell: Present, Kim K. Kramer: Present, Frank Kramer: Present, Kristy Opela: Present, Rex Walz: Present.

Opela and F. Kramer highlighted sessions attended at the State Board Conference held in Omaha.

Notice of the meeting was published in *The Stapleton Enterprise* on Thursday, December 7, 2023, and posted at five local businesses along with notice to the president of the board and all members prior to the meeting date.

President F. Kramer asked if there was any public comment and referred to the guidelines in the agenda.

Duane McClain addressed the board regarding support of items on the agenda and expressed appreciation of Mr. Redinger as superintendent.

Barb Doty, English teacher, addressed the board regarding her curriculum including teaching vocabulary, graphic novels, writing, poetry, narrative fiction, drama, non-fiction and novels.

Moved by K. Kramer, seconded by Opela, to approve the November 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting minutes and November 30, 2023, Special Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried. Burnside: Aye, Connell: Aye, K. Kramer: Aye, Kramer: Aye, Opela: Aye, Walz: Aye
Moved by Burnside, seconded by Walz, to approve the claims as presented. Motion carried. Burnside: Aye, Connell: Aye, K. Kramer: Aye, Kramer: Aye, Opela: Aye, Walz: Aye

The treasurer's report was presented by Superintendent Redinger.

Bryan Regier gave his Community Liaisons' report which included: junior Chamber members and November meeting, great turnout for annual Christmas Concert, great number of band and choir members selected to perform in various honor bands and choirs in January including: Maddie McEntee, Marianne Zuniga, Addie Hill, Hope Correll, Izzy Waker, JP Zuniga, Jaxon McEntee (all band) and Danielle Burd, Hope Correll, Jaxon McEntee, JP Zuniga (all choir), and the district spelling bee on January 31 at 2:00 p.m.

The Activities Director's report given by Jeremiah Johnson included the following: thank you to all activity bus drivers, community support phenomenal at all activities and appreciative of members of staff and community that show up and support, play production finished 4th in D1 at State, congratulations to Tessa Hansen on winning outstanding female performer for D1, thank you to Deanna Klosen, Melody Hansen and Robin Davis for their tireless efforts, junior high coaches Jed Wipplinger, Jared Arensdorf and Mark Lovitt deserve credit for being flexible with scheduling, Fall Cop board meeting update, sports moratorium Dec 23-27, wrestlers doing well with five medaling so far, Maxwell Holiday Basketball Tournament Dec 18 and 19th, and kudos to Coach Deines for before school weight room work with students.

7-12 Principal Johnson's report included: ASVAB testing completed and semester finals and benchmarks coming up in the next week and a half.

PK-6 Principal Isom reported on the following: IEPs/MDTs, benchmarks and student progress, first half CPR training with 18 staff, Principal for a Day with Liam Clouse, Conner Kinderknecht, Micah Weems, Christmas Music Program sounded great and ended with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Grinch, preschool cocoa and cookie stand, fourteen days of Christmas spirit with elementary, secondary and staff and NDE has website for MAPS testing for students not enrolled in public school.

The building and grounds met and discussed prioritized needs.

The negotiations committee updated on their meeting and progress with teachers committee.

Superintendent Redinger's report presented information on the following: possibly changing January board meeting to the 15th instead of the 8th, hiring of Bob Deardoff as full-time maintenance with buses, vehicles, and custodial duties outside of regular school hours along with obtaining bus license and assisting Bo, upcoming year budget limits and Building and Grounds meeting highlights.

The Board discussed the possible compensation of student teachers that may be employable by the district.

The board reviewed Board of Education Policy 5065: Bed Bugs. Moved by Walz, seconded by Connell, to approve Board of Education Policy 5065: Bed Bugs with Option B (Student is excluded from school until they receive treatment). Motion carried. Burnside: Aye, Connell: Aye, K. Kramer: Aye, Kramer: Aye, Opela: Aye, Walz: Aye
The Board reviewed Board of Education Policies 4033 thru 4064. Moved by Walz, seconded by Burnside, to approve Board of Education Policies 4033 thru 4064 with Option 1 on 4064 (School employees may transport students in their vehicle with permission from administration) as presented. Motion carried. Burnside: Aye, Connell: Aye, K. Kramer: Aye, Kramer: Aye, Opela: Aye, Walz: Aye

The Board discussed the superintendent's evaluation.

Moved by Walz, seconded by Opela, to extend Superintendent Redinger's contract for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried. Burnside: Aye, Connell: Aye, K. Kramer: Aye, Kramer: Aye, Opela: Aye, Walz: Aye
The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the library at Stapleton Public Schools. President F. Kramer adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Kim Kramer, Secretary
CLAIMS
American Family
Insurance1,254.32
Blue Cross
Blue Shield40,500.82
Colonial Supplemental
Insurance110.27
Madison National
Life1,066.44
Madison National Life
Insurance272.97
Stapleton General
MG Trust.....3,984.89
Stapleton General
NTRT.....32,058.60
Stapleton General
Wageworks625.00
Stapleton General
Account39,416.59
VSP336.81
ACC Business.....81.27
All Star
Auto Glass.....39.95
Al's Lock &
Safe Inc25.95
Capital Business
Systems Inc.....562.57
Country
Partners.....759.42
Creative
Printers.....200.50
Custer Public
Power District....3,876.95
Eakes Office
Solutions975.88
Education Service
Unit #16.....26,940.80
Frey's General
store354.08
Great Plains

Comm.334.72
Haddock Corp ...2,620.00
Hilton Omaha.....309.50
Johnson Fitness &
Wellness12,776.48
JW Pepper &
Son Inc.....973.58
KSB School Law ...791.66
Menards412.79
Mid Plains
Com. College.....1,170.00
Nebraska Assn Of
School Boards.....447.00
Nebraska Choral
Directors Assn865.00
Nebraska Safety
Center395.00
North Platte
Hardware LLC17.75
Oncourse Systems
For Education.....236.75
Onesource62.00
Presto X Co.146.07
Stapleton Cooperative
Market & Deli322.79
Stapleton
Hot Lunch180.20
T&S Repair LLC....619.40
US Bank.....1,370.03
Victory Computer
Service.....2,035.00
Village Of
Stapleton306.50
Weathercraft
Companies435.00
Wex Bank1,887.96
TOTAL182,158.66
PAYROLL.....124,022.94
TOTAL306,181.60
Publish: December 21, 2023 ZNEZ

Village of Stapleton Board Proceedings

VILLAGE OF STAPLETON
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2023
7:30 P.M.

Location of Meeting: Village Hall

Notice: Published in *The Stapleton Enterprise* and posted at three local businesses as provided by law

Called to Order: 7:30 P.M. by Chairman Dan Beckius.

Present at Meeting: Chairman Dan Beckius, Vice Chairman Wayne Hora, with Trustees Larry Vasquez, Anita Harwager, and Steve Kramer in attendance. Also present were, Mark Frey, Sean Carson, and Brent Burkland.

Open Meetings Law: Chairman Beckius stated to all persons in attendance that a copy of the Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall for all to see.

Previous Minutes: Motion by Harwager to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting. Kramer seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Old Business:
• Nuisance order 228-20 was discussed.

1. Motion made by Hora to drop lein on Velazquez/Rivas. Kramer seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

2. V. Allen property in progress.

3. R. Lockwood property in progress.

• Sheriff Carson's report:

-Civil dispute
-Dog complaint
-Suspicious activity
-Game & Parks call
-School incident
-Locked vehicle
-Stolen property
New Business:

• Hora made a motion to accept Resolution #12 Year-End Street Superintendent resolution for Brent R. Burkland, City Street Superintendent License S-1271, Class A, who served as the Stapleton Street Superintendent from January 1 through December 31, 2023, for the purpose of the 2023 calendar year Incentive Payment, to be issued to the Village of Stapleton, by the Nebraska Department of Transportation, in February 2024. Harwager seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

• Vasquez made a motion to accept Resolution #11, T.C. Engineering 1- &

See Board Proceedings
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THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE



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Marcia R. HoraPublisher
Kendra CutlerEditor
Kendra CutlerAdv. & Circulation Manager

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All letters to the editor must be signed to be considered for publication. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and not The Stapleton Enterprise/McPherson County News. We reserve the right to edit letters and reserve the right to refuse any advertising or news deemed not suitable for publication.

From The Past.....

Enterprise files dating back to July, 1912

*TEN YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 19, 1913*
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Stapleton celebrated “100 years of Devoted Faith” with a special Mass and potluck meal, Saturday evening, December 7.

First graders at Stapleton Public Schools continued the tradition of having their class picture taken with their glazed Christmas angels. Pictured were: Koy Kramer, Kaden Allen, Keith Morash, Cayson Johnston, Hagan Mikkelsen, Haylee Dimmitt, Chloe Schaeffer, Emmalee Nicholson, Mariah Duran, Scarlett Weitzel and Kyle Kramer.

*TWENTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 18, 2003*
The Upper Loup Natural Resources District honored two families for their efforts in natural resources conservation at the Conservation Awards Banquet held in Hyannis on November 13. Larry and Deb Myers, E.H. Shoemaker and R.T. Marland were pictured with the conservation award presented to Milldale Ranch Company.

Robert Allen (Bob) Bogue of Hideaway Acres, Crofton, died December 11, 2003.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, December 16 at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Arnold, for Sylvester (Sal) John Gunther, 85, who died Saturday, December 13 in Kearney

Edwin J. Schaeffer, 75, died December 13, at Centennial Park Retirement Village in North Platte.

*THIRTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 23, 1993*
Santa visited with area children Saturday, December 18. Pastor Don Drury assisted Santa as an elf in passing out treats sacked by the Stapleton Chamber of Commerce.

Mark and Traci Frey were first place winners in the Christmas lighting contest in the village. Vernon and Karen Brosius and Harold and Juanita Kramer were rural winners.

Governor Ben Nelson visited Stapleton Public Schools and was welcomed with a morning reception in the Bronco Room.

Teddi Moran was featured in this week’s senior spotlight.

Memorial services were held at Dickinson, Texas, for Burrell Otis French, age 59, who died December 17 at his home.

Citizens who were concerned about the proposed improvement of US-83 north of North Platte were encouraged to write letters to the District Highway Engineer.

*FORTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 22, 1983*
Glen Gier of Mullen, a promising western art sculptor, had added a new line to his work. He had designed and had printed original western note cards featuring four unique Western designs.

With just eight seconds remaining on the clock, senior Jon Karn tossed in the winning basket to give Stapleton a 61-59 victory over Callaway. Stapleton was now 3-1 on the ear. Greg Keslar led scorers with 24 points.

The North Platte Jaycee Women named Monica

Senior Lunch Menu At Hen House Cafe, Stapleton

Tuesday Special December 26 - Goulash, garlic bread, cheesy green beans, angel food cake & strawberries

Stapleton Senior meal menu at the Hen House Cafe. All meals are offered with water, coffee or regular tea.

Main Course (Choose One Option): 1. Hamburger steak with brown gravy; 2. Chicken fried steak with brown gravy; 3. Grilled chicken breast; 4. Hot hamburger or hot beef (mashed potatoes, bread); 5. Grilled ham and cheese (bread); 6. Fish sandwich (bun); 7. Hamburger or cheeseburger (bun); 8. Turkey or hamburger melt sandwich (bread); 9. Roast beef.

Vegetable Sides: Choose Two Options: Mashed potatoes and brown gravy; French fries; sweet potato fries; coleslaw; side salad with dressing; vegetable of the day; soup of the day; V-8 juice, 8 oz.; baked potato.

Fruit Sides: Choose One Option: Peaches; pears; mixed fruit; seasonal fresh fruit.

Milk Sides: Choose One Option: Small milk; cottage cheese.

Bread Sides: Choose One Option: Sandwich bun; white/wheat bread; dinner roll; macaroni and cheese.

All items are subject to availability. For any additional items or larger portions there will be a charge to customer. Orders may be called in advance to 308-636-2614.

Showing at the

Arnold Rialto Theatre

“Wish”

Dec. 22, 23 & 24

Fridays & Saturdays @ 7:00 P.M.
Sunday @ 3:00 P.M.

Sponsored By:
Arnold Education Association

A young girl named Asha wishes on a star and gets a more direct answer than she bargained for when a trouble-making star comes down from the sky to join her.

Upcoming Movie: “Napoleon”

PG

Kid & Family

Tips on Caring
for an
Aging Parent

Dear Savvy Senior,
Where can I turn to for caregiving help? I help take care of my 80-year-old father and work too, and it's wearing me out.
Worn Out Wendy

Dear Wendy,

Taking care of an aging parent over a period of time - especially when juggling work and other family obligations - can be exhausting. But help and resources are available. Here's what you should know.

Identify Your Needs
To help you determine and prioritize the kinds of help you need, a good first step is to make a detailed list of everything you do as your dad's caregiver and the amount of time each task takes. Identify the times when you need help the most and which tasks others might be able to do for you.

Then list the types of care needed, such as simple companionship or doing active chores, like shopping or running errands. Once you determine this, here are some tips and places you can reach out to for help.

Care Helpers
If you have siblings or other loved ones close by, start by asking them if they could come and help with specific tasks. And see if friends, neighbors or faith group members could help too.

You also need to check into local resources that

may be available. Many communities offer a range of free or subsidized services that help seniors and caregivers with basic needs such as home delivered meals, transportation, senior companion services and respite services, which offers short-term care so you can take an occasional break. Call your nearby Area Aging Agency (800-677-1116) for referrals to services.

There are also a bevy of online services you can use to help you save time on certain chores. For example, online grocery shopping and home deliveries, and online pharmacy medication refills and deliveries. You can also order meal-kits or pre-made meals online through numerous meal service delivery companies and arrange needed transportation with ride sharing services like Lyft or Uber.

Or, if you can afford it, you may want to consider hiring someone a few hours a week to help with things like cooking, housekeeping or even personal care. Costs can run anywhere from \$12 up to \$25 per hour. *Care.com* or *CareLinx.com* are two good websites to help you find someone, or you can work with a local home care agency.

Financial Aids
If you're handling your dad's financial chores, make things easier by

arranging for direct deposit for his income sources, and set up automatic payments for his utilities and other routine bills. You may also want to set up your dad's online banking service, so you can pay bills and monitor his account anytime. Of, if you need help, consider hiring a bill paying service like Silver Bills (*SilverBills.com*), which charges a flat fee of \$150 per month.

BenefitsCheckup.org is another excellent tool to look for financial assistance programs that may help your dad, particularly if he's lower income.

Technology Solutions
To help you keep tabs on your dad when you are away at work or if he lives alone, there are affordable technology devices that can help. For example, there are medical alert systems and smart speakers that help with communication and allow him to call for help if needed. Home video cameras with two-way speakers that allow you to monitor and talk to him when you're away. Electronic pill boxes that can notify you if he has taken his medications. And to help you coordinate his care with others members of his care team there are websites like *LotsAHelpingHands.com*.

Send your questions to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.

Kramer, a teacher for the North Platte Catholic Schools, the outstanding young educator award for 1983-84.

Logan County residents awoke December 18 to temperatures of 23 below zero. By Tuesday, approximately eight to nine inches of new snow added to the large amount dumped during the Thanksgiving weekend.

Terri Black and Lori Joedeman led Stapleton with eight points each as the girls lost to Callaway in basketball action.

*FIFTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 27, 1973*
The Stapleton area received about 10 inches of new snow and high winds swept the snow into large drifts.

The Veterans Building in Stapleton would be open New Year's Eve for teenagers, ages 13 through 18 years of age.

Logan County Clerk, R.K. Haskell suffered a broken hip in a fall Wednesday morning in front of the courthouse at Stapleton as he was going to work.

Denise Ann (Abrams) Skinner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Abrams of Stapleton, received a master of science degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Banner Mother's Club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kramer for their Christmas party. Twyla Kramer had fixed each member a beautiful red candle with their secret pals name on them.

*SIXTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 26, 1963*
Dave Jones bowled a 234 Thursday evening at the Triangle Lanes in Arnold.

Stapleton High's Broncos hung on with a tough defense after trailing the Sutherland Sailors by a six-point margin at half-time to beat the Sailors 61-55 in a thrilling Lincoln County Conference debut for the Broncos. It was the fifth straight victory for the Broncos. Coach McGinnis praised the rebounding of Calvin Frey and the defensive floor play of Darrell Deterding.

The Twilight Twelve Extension Club met at the home of Mrs. Jim Doyle for their Christmas party. Mrs. Doyle had her home beautifully decorated for the occasion, and guests also enjoyed candies which had been sent to her from Germany by her father.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ready of Stapleton were on an extended visit to Arizona and California.

The Stapleton reserve basketball team evened up their season. In the game against Sutherland, Ken Lovitt led the Broncos with 18 points and Marvin Godfrey put in 10.

The Neighborly Extension Club held their annual Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Tom Beeken with 14 members present. Mrs. Ed Kunkel presented a Christmas reading.

*SEVENTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 24, 1953*
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Utterback of Willows, California, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have four daughters, Mrs. Chester Barner of Stapleton; and Mrs. Clarence Canham, Mrs. Lowell Jensen and Mrs. Belle Magnuson, all of California.

The Stapleton Flyers walloped the Gothenburg Townies 78-61. Darwin Nielsen led all scorers with 23 points, closely followed by Derb Frey who bucketed 19.

Graveside services for Carol Ann Kelly, 13-day-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kelly were conducted at the Loup Valley Cemetery west of Stapleton.

*EIGHTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 23, 1943*
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hall announced the birth of a daughter, Mary Ilene, born December 24.

In line with a decision reached by the Stapleton Commercial Club, all business houses in Stapleton would be closed Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25. The bank and courthouse would also be closed all day, as would the post office, except for a one-hour period at mail time.

Stapleton High School basketball teams won a double victory over Arnold to keep their victory string intact. The Jackrabbit scoring trio of Barner, Snyder and Ostrom hit for 25 points, while Myers and Dennison collected 15 for Arnold.

Helen Stalling and Cecil Birth were married December 12 at Norton, Kansas.

For outstanding assistance in helping Logan county achieve the distinction of being the first of 93 counties in the state to surpass its Third War Loan quota, the Women's Division of the Logan County War Finance Committee had been given national recognition. Mrs. Henry E. Dress county chairman of the group received a letter commending the group.

*NINETY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 28, 1933*
Miss LaVona Berry and Clarence Lehmkuhler were united in marriage at Sidney on December 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Wells experienced a head-on automobile collision when they were returning from Cozad after spending Christmas with relatives.

Miss Caryl Johnson and Ivan Jones were married at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson on Christmas evening. House decorations were in keeping with the holiday season. Miss Lucille Johnson, younger sister of the bride, played the wedding march.

A surprise party was given at the Geo. Viehmeyer home in honor of the birthday anniversary of Mrs. Philip Smith. Five tables of Bridge were played with Marjory Zickefoose recording high and P.G. Smith, low.

As Mr. and Mrs. W.V. Woodruff and children, Paul and Juel were returning from a visit with relatives at Cozad they had the misfortune to overturn their car a short distance from the airport at North Platte.

Funeral services were held for Mrs. John Moran and burial was at the Nesbit Cemetery. She left to mourn her husband, a 14-year-old daughter, Agnes; a son, John Jr., 12 and a baby boy, one week old.

Thanks to Santa Claus, a number of Stapleton men were sporting new neckties that week.

Wallace Salisbury, Mrs. John Link and Mrs. Paul Stalnaker autoed to North Platte to bring Ora Wells to his home here after his car was wrecked in a head-on collision. They also visited Mrs. Wells who was in the hospital.

*ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 27, 1923*
Forty-four different things had been made in the farm shop in the past four weeks at Baker Rural High School.

The friends of Elizabeth Karn surprised her with their presence at the home of Cecilia Becker.

Marjorie Raynard, who was attending Hastings College, was home for the holidays.

The post office reported the Christmas mail as being a little under normal that year. There were fewer parcels, but a great increase of greeting cards.

*ONE HUNDRED TEN YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 25, 1913*
Harve Reasoner departed for Hastings where he would spend Christmas with his parents.

The first Smoker and Stag Supper ever held by the Commercial Club was pulled off by the committee and members. On the program were President W.M. Baskin who delivered the address; and Dr. McLeay who gave a very interesting talk “Logan County Thirteen Years Ago.”

Cris Weber had the misfortune to have his collar bone broken by a horse.

The Stapleton Elevator received and shipped over six thousand bushels of corn last week. Most of it shelled.

Mr. Hollister moved onto his claim.

Mr. Eldridge was building on his claim.

Miss Paxton had at last succeeded in getting a well on her place after about four or five attempts. Mr. Rood was the successful man, he having gone to gravel and distance of 350 feet.

Miss Huffman and Miss Paxton were preparing a Christmas program at their schools.

The mail carrier, John Brummet, was sick and not able to take the mail. His son Newt carried the mail that day.

The marriage of Phillip Rassler, whose home was near Arnold, and Miss Rosa Hunt, took place in the parlor of the Commercial Hotel in Gandy.

Mr. and Mrs. John Walz Jr. were the parents of a baby boy.

Card of Thanks

Thank you so much for the cards, flowers, memorials, calls, visits, food and most especially prayers upon the passing of our mother and grandmother, Cleao Connell. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Ruth, Sharlene, and families

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Odds & Ends

Marcia R. Hora, Publisher
How Can We Keep Christmas?

We all know the classic Charles Dickens' story. Ebenezer Scrooge didn't have much enthusiasm for Christmas. "If I could work my will, every idiot who goes about with Merry Christmas on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart," Scrooge remarks.

After being visited by the ghost of his former partner, Jacob Marley, and three spirits of Christmas, Scrooge is a changed man.

In fact to the Ghost of Christmas Future he promises to honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all year.

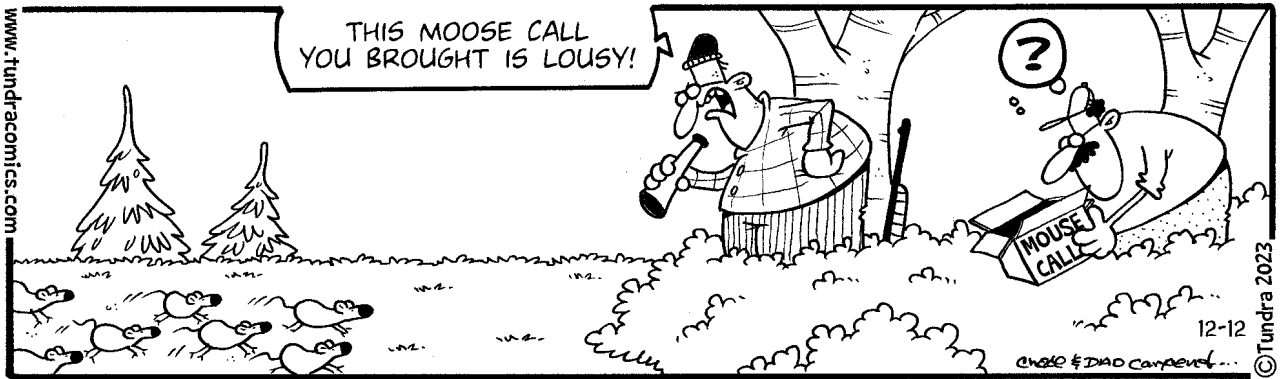
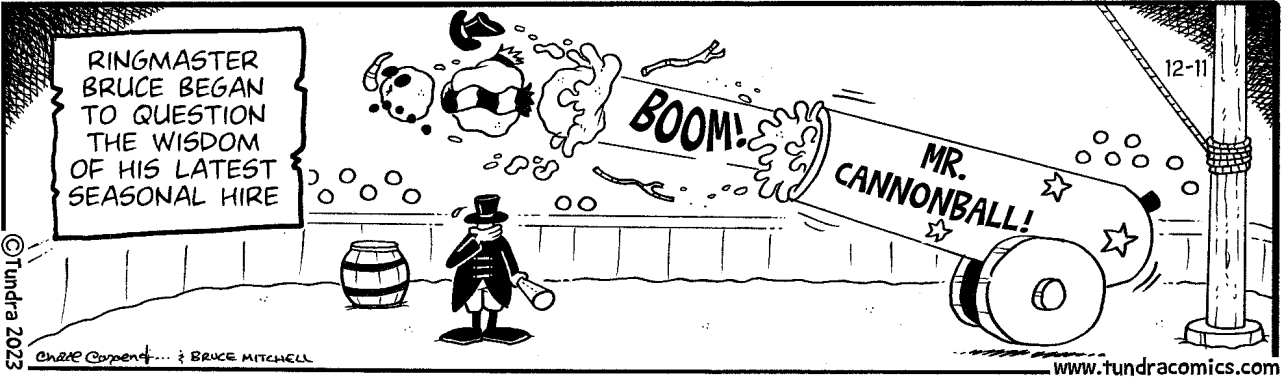
He kept his promise and the ending of A Christmas Carol reports



Scrooge knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge and Dickens wrote, "May that be truly said of us, and all of us."

How can we keep Christ-

See Odds & Ends
Page 12



Life's Outtakes

Daris Howard

Children and Musical Instruments

As I became more comfortable teaching music in my assignment with the children at our church, I decided that since they had learned some styles of music, it might be fun to play some simple instruments. As I thought about it, I remembered learning to play a comb with cellophane wrapped around it when I was young. In fact, I became the king of the comb and played to accompany my grade school class to sing. I have even done a couple of YouTube videos.

For those who have not heard this most notable instrument, it sounds like a kazoo. Anyone can do it. You have to learn to hum and buzz your lips against the cellophane at the same time.

I went to the dollar store and bought a bunch of combs of different sizes. I took them and a box of cellophane to church. When I pulled them out, the combination intrigued the children. I didn't give cellophane to the youngest children for safety reasons, but they still got a nice comb. But the children who were around four years and older had a chance to play one.

It only took about fifteen minutes for every child to learn, some even faster. A few needed special help, but soon all got the hang of it. We then played a few of our favorite songs. As church ended, every child took a comb home with them, and the older children received some extra strips of cellophane. The older children were all buzzing out their favorite songs on their way to the parking lot. It sounded like

hives of bees had made the church their home.

I promised the children if they would bring their combs back each week, we would play some songs together. The following week, most of them had their combs with them. One little boy didn't. "My mom took mine and hid it," he said. I had extras, so he was quickly back in the orchestra.

One father told me his two children played their combs incessantly all week. "If I end up killing you, I'll be acquitted by reason of insanity," he said.

I promised the children they could play at least one comb song for the community Christmas party, but I wanted something even more oriented to the season. I had searched the internet for inexpensive bells, but everything was way out of my price range. Then I came across a website that talked about conduits being cut in lengths to make different notes.

I bought some conduit and cut a bunch of each desired length. I drilled holes in them and put different colored strings for each note through the holes to hold them. I then bought some large nails and ground the pointed ends off. When I finished, I examined them.

"I think I better ream them out, or someone will get a finger stuck in one," I told my wife, Donna.

"I don't think that will happen," she replied.

That Sunday, I hadn't passed them out to the children for more than a minute before one little boy had his finger stuck in his. I took him to the bathroom and got soap on his finger to get it out. For obvious reasons, I also had to make a rule that if anyone used their chime to whack someone else, they lost it for the day.

Donna made a chart for each Christmas song we played with colored dots related to the string colors so the children would know when to hit theirs. I grouped them by age and notes. It sounded amazing for a children's chime orchestra.

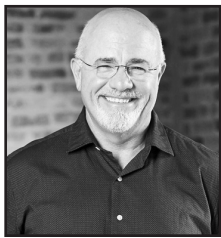
The desire to ding the conduit was so great that I found I needed to let them smack them with the nails for about thirty seconds before we could settle in and play the songs. I'm sure when they were all hitting their chimes at the same time, the dissonance made people wonder what we were up to. But with a little practice, we also played them for the Christmas party, and the parents were all complimentary.

It's amazing what can be learned and what fun can be had with a few simple items.

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Dave Says

Dave Ramsey



Dear Dave,
My wife and I are debt-free except for our mortgage and two Parent PLUS loans for our daughters' college educations. One of the loans totals \$18,078, and the other is for \$41,500. Both girls want to pay them off using the new extended plan being offered, but I'm 59 1/2, and I've got about \$500,000 in a 401(k) from a previous job along with \$125,000 from a job I started five years ago. We've been thinking about just paying the loans off for the girls, but we wanted to know your thoughts.

Mike

Dear Mike,
If I were in your shoes, I'd just go ahead and pay them off. Technically, you're liable for the loans. They are not.

The extended plan you're talking about is garbage. In reality, it means the loans are never paid back. The extended plan is 30 years of not even making the principal payment. No interest is paid, and they don't touch the principal. The whole thing works backward for 30 years, and it's the very definition of a stupid government program.

I really don't think you want your daughters to be part of something like this. But that means you're going to be stuck

with paying off these loans. You might as well just own it and pay them off now.

I want you to understand this, Mike. I don't advise people to dip into their savings every time a problem comes up prior to retirement. But you're 59 1/2, and at that point there's no penalty. Plus, you've got \$625,000 sitting there. You're going to pull less than \$60,000 out, plus a little in taxes, to make the problem go away. It's not as bad as it could be, but I'm afraid you're going to have to pay a little stupid tax on this one. I'm sure your girls didn't know all this, but it's a perfect example of what can happen when you put your faith in a stupid plan coming out of Washington, D.C.

I hate it for you guys—and everyone else in America who took out a bunch of student loans—because you're getting messed over by your own government. The first way they messed you over was to put a student

See Dave Says
Page 12

The Cutting Edge

Kendra L. Cutler, Editor

The Man and the Birds Christmas Story

It is my hope that this powerful yet simple Christmas parable about the true meaning of Christmas will not be lost and will continue to be told and shared for many years to come.

A sincere thank you to the late Chicago based radio broadcaster Paul Harvey who retold this story for decades on his Christmas radio broadcast. Listening to this story became a wonderful Christmas tradition for many.

Editor's Note: The origin and author of The Man and the Birds Christmas Story is unknown.

According to Paul Harvey, who retold this parable every Christmas for decades, the story was originally published by United Press International by Louis Cassels. He tried for many years to trace the author of these words. He never could and it occurs to him that maybe some things are supposed to be written without credit to any particular individual.

The man I'm going to tell you about was not a scrooge, he was a kind decent, mostly good man. Generous to his family and upright in his dealings with other men. But he just didn't believe in all of that incarnation stuff that the churches proclaim at Christmas time. It just didn't make sense and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn't swallow the Jesus story, about God coming to Earth as a man.

He told his wife I'm truly sorry to distress you, but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve. He said



he would feel like a hypocrite and that he would much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. So he stayed and they went to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then he went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper.

Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. Then another ... and then another. At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against the living room window. But when he went to the front door to investigate he found a flock of birds huddled outside miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and in a desperate search for shelter they had tried to fly through his large landscape window. That is what had been making the sound.

Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures just lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter. All he would have to do is to direct the birds

See Cutting Edge
Page 14



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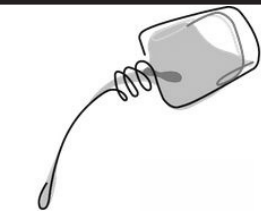
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From The Tryon Graphic Archives

**TEN YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 19, 2013**
The McPherson County third and fourth grade class was pictured sending a big thank you to the Applegate Foundation for the \$1,500 their teacher Miss Baker received for three new I-Pads for the classroom. Those pictured were: Miss Baker, Jaxton Starr, Cash Kemp, Lane Dancer, Jaxon Holm, Camron White, Stephanie Viter, Annalee Starr, Isabella Arensdorf, Kinnley Powers and Josie Coffman.

The McPherson County FAX chapter qualified another member for state. Kandace Ward qualified in the job interview competition.

Santa's reindeer with the assistance of Phillip Licking of Seneca, were in Tryon visiting with the McPherson County elementary.

Angie Stickney filed for a position on McPherson County School District #90 board of education.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 18, 2003**

Kim Blake was to fill the McPherson County Commissioner Board Vacancy. A swearing in ceremony was held at the courthouse with County Clerk Judy M. Dailey.

A local blood drive was held and locals were recognized for donating blood. McPherson County is very proud of the amount of donors they have every time. They had about 70 donors at this blood drive. The Red Cross decided to do blood drives four times a year instead of just once a year because of the great turn out they always have.

The Upper Loup NRD held a conservation awards banquet in Hyannis and Logan County was the award recipient for subdistrict 5 and the Roy Westover Ranch in western Cherry County received the award for subdistrict 1. The Milldale Ranch celebrates 120 years in Logan County.

The Longhorns played Thedford and Mullen.

The boys lost to Thedford 60-37 and won 49-41 over Mullen. The Lady Longhorns also played Thedford and Mullen. They lost the Thedford game 38-9 and won the Mullen game 31-25.

**THIRTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 23, 1993**

Governor Ben Nelson had made a visit to Tryon for the presentation of NCIP Awards. He was pictured wearing a Longhorn Cap and holding a Longhorn T-shirt which had been presented by a McPherson County Board of Education member, Wayne Melvin. Superintendent C.L. Robertson was shown applauding in the background.

The Tryon ambulance was called to the home of Bob and Marie Stevenson about 18 miles northwest of Tryon, Wednesday, December 15th, for the Stevenson's son-in-law, Jim Gragg, who had received a badly broken leg in a tree-cutting accident. Jim was up in the fork of a tree, trimming branches when one came down and pinned him there, breaking his leg below the knee.

Twenty-two family members met at Aunt Bea's Café and genuinely surprised Maxine Neal for her 74th birthday. The event was planned by her husband Harold. Maxine's birthday and the couple's wedding anniversary was December 16th.

Brad and Cindy Kroll of Bassett, Nebraska, were the happy parents of a baby boy, Aaron Ray, born Friday, December 3, 1993, at Ainsworth. The baby had two brothers, Austin and Andrew, to welcome him home.

**FORTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 22, 1983**

Mrs. Dale (Joanne) Jennings of North Platte, was installed Friday as president of the Union Pacific Old Timers Club & Auxiliary. The installation was held at the annual Christmas party of the club which included a covered dish dinner and dance.

Mrs. Jennings is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orval Black of Tryon.

Dr. Jon R. Mundall, M.D., had resigned from the staff of Sandhills Clinics effective January 15, 1984.

Ted Correll was a patient last week at Great Plains Regional Medical Center at North Platte. According to reports, Ted is now home and feeling much better.

Results of the election of county ASCS committee persons for 1984 have been announced by Clarence Arensdorf, Chairperson of the ASC Committee.

Newly named to committee posts in the mail balloting were Roger L. Trumbull, Committee member, three year term; Hans P. Johnson, Committee Member, one-year term; Carl L. Rundback, first alternate, and Randall Fisher, second alternate.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 27, 1973**

Governor J. James Exon announced Wednesday the appointment of Paul Hunn of Tryon, to the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors, Hunn succeeds Ross Haase, who recently resigned.

Rick Black arrived home December 12th for a furlough over the holidays with his family. He has been stationed in the Philippines.

May Trego, age 95, died Friday, December 21, 1973, at North Platte. Following her marriage in 1896 to the late Nate Trego, she moved to a ranch 20 miles west of Tryon, where she lived until 1929, when she moved to North Platte. Survivors include one son, J. W. Bill Trego of North Platte; one daughter, Mrs. Mart (Helen) Mathers of North Platte; six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Leota Irene Anthony, 66, of North Platte, died December 12, 1973. She was born March 27th 1907, at Ringgold.

**SIXTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 26, 1963**

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Neal celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on December 15, 1963, with 125 guests attending at the Tryon Lodge Hall. Their two sons, Larry and Roger, and Mr. and Mrs. Don Neal were hosts for the occasion.

A very large crowd attended the annual Christmas tea and program at the Tryon Grade School December 19th, which was presented by Mrs. Audrey McClintock and Mrs. Darlene Waits, teachers, and the students of District, 4. Reva Cotton and Lynelle Ellis poured tea and coffee, with Duane Schmidt and Delles Leeds assisting at the serving table.

**SEVENTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 24, 1953**

Quite a few servicemen from this community are spending Christmas furloughs and leaves with home folks. They include Clarence Correll, Larry Dean Trumbull, Don Bullington, Paul Hunn and Jim Doyle. A/3C Bob Daly is also home on a two-week Christmas leave.

The Eclipse Guild held their annual Christmas party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B.C. Huffman on December 13, 1953. Twenty-five enjoyed the dinner with gifts and treats.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh

*See Graphic Files
Page 12*

Over The Hills

J.R. Trumbull



At the end of life, what really matters is not what we have bought, but what we have built; not what we have got but what we have shared; not our competence, but our character, and not our success but our significance. Live a life that matters. Live a life of love.

It's that time of year again.

Christmas should be a time to think of His birth and sacrifice as well as His teachings. I've been reading through the book of Luke, one chapter per day. I'm noticing things that are so similar to today. Jesus was rejected by people who had known Him all of His life. They were looking for the Messiah but they sure weren't looking in their own village. He told them the truth and they weren't about to accept it. As we go through this Christmas season, think on the teachings of Christ and how they can be applied to your life. He is the very best Present you will ever receive so don't reject Him.

Senior Lunch At Prairie Hills Cafe, Tryon

*Serving Begins
@ 11:30 a.m.*

Thursday, December 21 - French dip, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, peaches

Friday, December 22 - Fish sandwich, coleslaw, tator tots, mandarin oranges

The cafe will be closed December 25 - December 29

It's CHRISTmas

Take Christ out of Christmas?
What do you mean?
Every time I see X-mas,
I just want to scream!

For Christmas without Christ
Loses all meaning for me
As Christmas is far more
Than presents under a tree.

God gave His Son
One glorious night
That by His life and death
We might see the light.

The light of redemption,
Of purpose and love
With Holy Spirit guidance
Sent from above.

Christmas is far more
Than mythical Santa and such -
It celebrates Christ's birth
Who loves us so much!

Yes, Jesus was born
One long ago Christmas Eve
Offering life everlasting
If we would only believe.

So leave Christ in Christmas
And center your day
Around the risen Savior
And trust and obey.

Just celebrate Christmas
Remembering His love
And all He's done for us
With blessings sent from above.

*J.R. Trumbull
14 December 1997*



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A decorative background for the church service announcement, featuring a dark, starry night sky with white snowflakes and stars.

Romeo & Juliet Newspaper Articles



MCPHERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

The McPherson County High School sophomore class finished their Romeo and Juliet newspaper articles last week. Now, they are wrapping up their Shakespeare unit and working on their Romeo and Juliet slideshow presentations. Pictured above, l-r: Rachel Kemp-Powers, Kamilla Johnston, Brayden McNutt and Ashley Popham.

An Early Christmas Present For MCS Students



MCPHERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Ms. Melvin received an early Christmas present from an anonymous person. Thank you for the new ping pong table. The McPherson County students will enjoy learning this game.

A Visit With The Marines



MCPHERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

The McPherson County students had a nice visit from the Marines on Wednesday, December 13. The kids got to test their strength and endurance. Pictured above doing pull-ups is Tristan Waddell

Edgerton Explorit Center Visits



MCPHERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

The Edgerton Explorit Center came and visited the McPherson County Elementary with some special guests. Thank you for joining us and sharing your stories, Roy, Ted, and Doc.

SVM Apparel



MCPHERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

The McPherson County Schools Improvement Club is selling Sandhills Valley Mavericks apparel. Orders need to be placed by January 3 and will be ready for pick up around January 12. They are selling youth sizes and adult sizes in most items, including T-shirts, long-sleeve T-shirts, crewneck's, hoodies, and joggers. Orders will be delivered to the McPherson County school or the Stapleton school. Please contact Lana Watson, Elizabeth Albrecht, Jana Gragg, Chad Fisher, or Andrea Hanson Blake for order forms or to order.



MCPHERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

McPherson County Public Schools has the best teachers and a wonderful cooperation with ESU 16. A great day of learning SEBL with Loree and Kevin.



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FCS Class Sewing



STAPLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The FCS class has been busy making Christmas ornaments for their Sewing Unit. They have learned to do different kinds of stitches and how to appliqué designs on felt to make these ornaments.

Fifth Grade Art



STAPLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Today the 5th grade students had a chance to explore their creativity and enhance their art skills with oil pastels. A range of techniques, such as blending, layering, and adding textures were used to create festive drawings.

Preschool Hot Cocoa Stand

Preschoolers hosted their 9th annual hot cocoa stand, Friday, December 8. They served cocoa, cider, cookies, and candy canes to approximately 70 teachers, staff, students, and community members. Donations this year totaled just over \$150. Donations were used to purchase goodies and craft supplies. Goodie bags will be given to the residents at Riverview in Arnold. The preschoolers traveled to Arnold on Monday, December 11, to share gifts bags, make crafts and sing Christmas songs to the residents. Preschoolers are learning about the spirit of giving this week. Below are some pictures from the Cocoa Stand.



**Diane Knievel**
308-636-6575
dknievel@hotmail.com
dianeknievel.my.nuskin.com



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Mav Wrestlers Hit The Mats

The Sandhill Valley wrestlers traveled to Sargent on Friday, December 8 for the Twin Loup Invitational.

The Mavs ended the day in 15th place with five points.

Burwell won the meet with 191.5 points and Nellig-Oakdale was second with 149 points.

Complete results of the local wrestlers are:

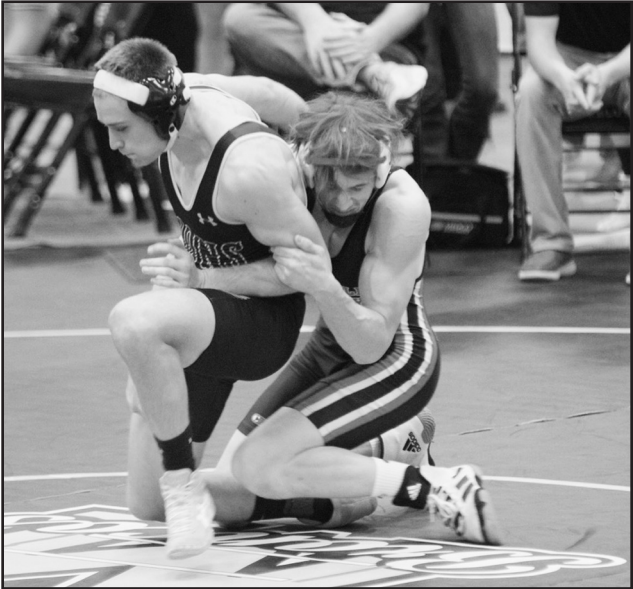
150 - Colin Rooney (4-6) scored nine team points. Champ. Round 1 - Garrett Hasenauer, Burwell won by major decision over Rooney, (MD 8-0); Cons. Round 1 - Rooney won by fall over Trace Kaupp, North Central, (Fall 1:43); Cons. Round 2 - Rooney won by fall over Chase Kaczor, North Central, (Fall 2:43); Cons. Round 3 - Rooney won by fall over Jack Barlow, Elgin Public/Pope John, (Fall 3:49); Cons. Semi - Keaton Dowse, Twin Loup, won by fall over Rooney, (fall :51)

150 - Ashton Lambert (1-6). Champ. Round 1 - Lambert won by fall over Mason Dutro, Overton, (Fall 3:45); Quarterfinal - Jayden Ruf, Cambridge, won by fall over Lambert, (Fall :57); Cons. Round 2 - Jack Barlow, Elgin Public/Pope John, won by decision over Lambert, (Dec 4-0)

215 - Kaden Allen (5-6) scored three team points. Champ. Round 1 - Allen received a bye; Quarterfinal - Samuel Hemenway, Elgin Public/Pope John, won by fall over Allen, (Fall 1:38); Cons. Round 2 - Allen won by fall over Laramie Duffield, Hyannis, (Fall :54); Cons. Round 3 - Kip Leonard, North Central, won by fall over Allen, (Fall 2:05)

285 - Porter Thomas (2-6). Champ. Round 1 - Thomas won by fall over Royce Green, Burwell, (Fall 1:16); Quarterfinal - Trev Burke, Cambridge, won by decision over Thomas, (Dec 11-8); Cons. Round 2 - Alejandro Mora, North Platte, won by fall over Thomas, (Fall 2:19).

285 - Kaden Blake (6-5) placed fourth and scored 13 team points. Champ.



ELAINE ZUTAVERN

Killian Rooney brings his opponent down in recent wrestling action.

Round 1 - Blake received a bye; Quarterfinal - Devon Baum, Broken Bow, won by fall over Blake, (Fall 3:18); Cons. Round 2 - Blake won by fall over Praeson Klug, Niobrara/Verdigre, (Fall :59); Cons. Round 3 - Blake won by fall over Tysen Welton, Burwell, (Fall 3:45); Cons. Semi - Blake won by fall over Trev Burke, Cambridge, (fall 2:44); 3rd Place Match - Alejandro Mora, North Platte, won by fall over Blake, (Fall 2:12).

The Mavs traveled to Axtell on Tuesday, December 12 for wrestling action. The team ended the day in 14th place with five points.

Burwell won with 210 points and Milford was second with 207.5 points.

Complete results of the local wrestlers are:

150 - Ashton Lambert (2-8). Champ. Round 1 - Lambert received a bye; Quarterfinal - Westin Potter, Lexington JV, won by fall over Lambert, (Fall 3:59); Cons. Round 2 - Lambert won by fall over Damien Campbell, Wilcox Hildreth, (Fall 3:00); Cons. Round 2 - Cory Langenberg, Milford, won by fall over Lambert (Fall :29)

150 - Colin Rooney (4-8). Champ. Round 1 - Rooney received a bye; Quarterfinal - Cort Buss, Burwell,

won by fall over Rooney, (Fall :48); Cons. Round 2 - Rooney received a bye; Cons. Round 3 - Gavin Hammond, Southwest won by fall over Rooney (Fall 4:25)

215 - Kaden Allen (5-8). Quarterfinal - Hagen Hodges, Burwell, won by fall over Allen, (Fall 3:52); Cons. Round 1 - Allen received a bye; Cons. Semi - Dylan Johnson, Kearney Gold JV, won by decision over Allen, (Dec 8-1)

285 - Kaden Blake (8-7) scored six team points. Champ. Round 1 - Blake received a bye; Quarterfinal - Garrett Schoen, Milford, won by fall over Blake, (Fall 1:51); Cons. Round 2 - Blake won by fall over Abraham Montano, Kearney Gold JV, (Fall 2:06); Cons. Round 3 - Blake won by fall over Tysen Welton, Burwell, (Fall 3:56); Cons. Semi - Cy Feeken, Burwell, won by decision over Blake (Dec 6-5).

285 - Porter Thomas (2-7). Champ. Round 1 - Thomas received a bye; Quarterfinal - Andy cash, Ansley-Litchfield, won by fall over Thomas, (Fall 1:46); Cons. Round 2 - Kade Schaeffert, Southwest, won by medical forfeit over Thomas (M. For)

The boys were in action on Saturday, December 16 in Cambridge. This was the last meet for the

Mavs Better Record To 3-2

Kadee McVay

Last Friday, December 8 the Sandhills Valley Mavericks hit the road to take on the Sutherland Sailors. The Mavericks came out on top winning 53-24.

Juniors Leyton Connell and Isaac Goosey both led the team with 15 points each.

Connell also had eight rebounds, one assist, and five steals.

Goosey had four rebounds and three steals.

Senior Cooper Layher also put 11 points on the board. He had one rebound, three assists, and one steal.

Braden Powell had four points, six rebounds, and two assists.

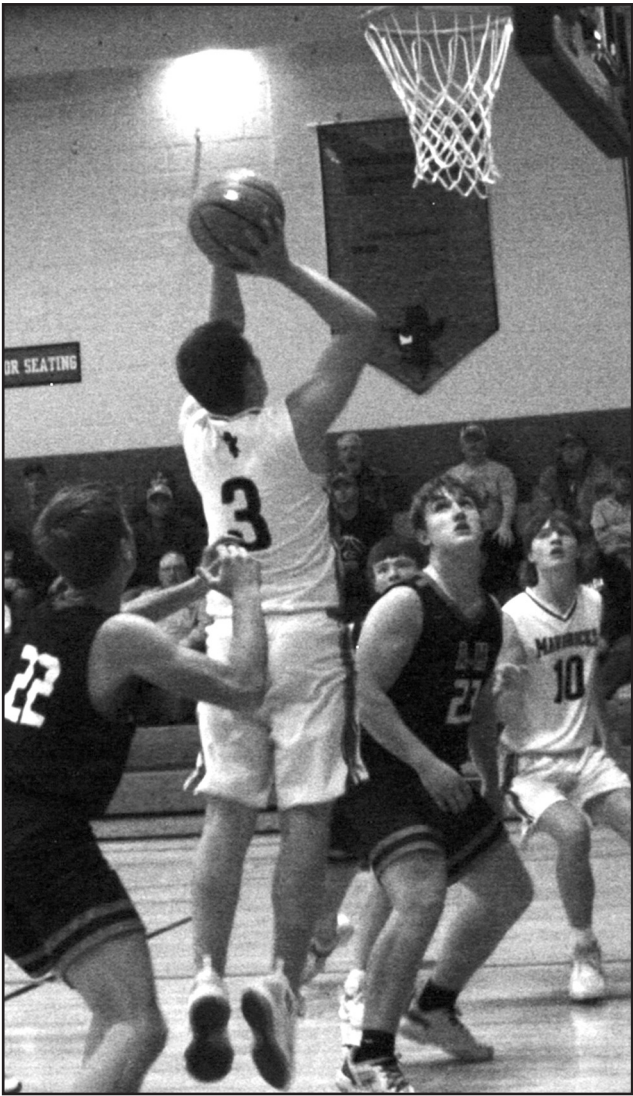
BJ Goforth had six points, four rebounds, one assist, and two steals. Kyle Kramer had six huge blocks, six rebounds, four assists, two steals, and two points.

With this win the Mavericks move to a record of 2-1 on the season.

The Mavericks played a double header taking on the Arthur County Wolves on Saturday, December 10, following their win against the Sailors on Friday. The Mavericks won again by the score of 46-30.

The Mavericks started off strong by holding the Wolves to just three points in the first quarter.

Junior Kyle Kramer led the team with 13 points, nine rebounds, five as-



KENDRA CUTLER - THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

Cayson Johnston goes up for the jump shot in recent Maverick basketball action.

sists, three steals, and two blocks.

Senior Cooper Layher followed with 10 points, eight rebounds, and one assist.

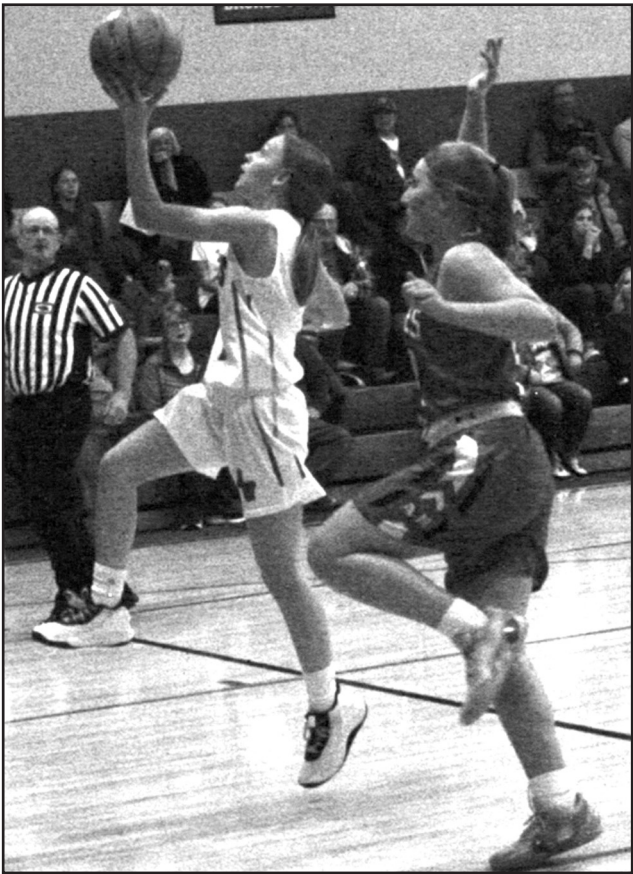
Senior Braden Powell had eight points, one rebound and one steal.

See Basketball Page 12

Lady Mavs Staying Strong

Kadee McVay

The Lady Mavericks also took on the Sailors last Friday night. Unfortunately the final score was not in our favor and the Lady Mavs lost 19-40. The girls stayed tough until the end. Freshman Briley Kramer led the team with six points, 10 rebounds, one assist, and two steals. Freshman Kamryn Kramer had four points, and one rebound. Sophomore Rhayana Bruns had two points, eight rebounds, one assist, one steal, and one block. Sophomore Kelsey Amos had three rebounds, two steals, and one point. Junior Shelby Layher had two points, two rebounds, four steals, and one assist. Junior Natalie Sheets had two points, one rebound, one steal, and one assist. Senior Elizabeth Fetty had two points and three rebounds. The Lady Mavericks continue to give it their all this season and took on the Arthur Lady Wolves on December 9th. They lost the game 22-39. Freshman Kamryn Kramer had seven points, five rebounds, and two steals. Sophomore Rhayana Bruns had six points,



KENDRA CUTLER - THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

Briley Kramer with the lay-up in recent Lady Mavericks Basketball action.

three rebounds, and three steals. Freshman Briley Kramer had five points, three rebounds, three assists, two steals, and one charge taken. Sophomore Kelsey Amos had one point, six rebounds, one assist, and one charge taken. Junior Shelby Layher had three points, nine rebounds, and one steal. The Mavericks held the Wolves to only seven points in the first quarter and six points in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Wolves in the fourth quarter 14-6.

The Lady Mavericks lost to the Maywood/Hayes Center Wolves 6-60. Shelby Layher, Natalie

Sheets, and Rhayana Bruns each had two points.

Kelsey Amos, Briley Kramer, and Kamryn Kramer helped the Lady Mavs to out rebound the Wolves, Amos had five, B. Kramer had nine, and K. Kramer had six.

Layher, Bruns, and Fetty each had four rebounds, and Kemp-Powers had one rebound.

The Mavericks held the Wolves to just seven points in the fourth quarter.

The Lady Mavericks took on the Twin Loup Wolves on Dec. 15 and Wauneta-Palisade Dec. 16. The Ladies appreciate all their fan support!

NCPA Academic All-State Announced

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) is pleased to announce the student recipients of the Fall 2023-2024 Nebraska Chi-

ropractic Physicians Association (NCPA) Academic All-State Awards. Since 2006 this NSAA Awards Program has recognized students who meet the criteria for nomination by their school in the season of their activity.

Each year the NSAA and the NCPA recognize students during Fall, Winter, and Spring Seasons who are nominated by their schools for their individual academic excellence,

leadership, and significant contributions in their NSAA activity.

McPherson County Football: Leyton Connell.

Play Production: Katherine Anderson and Isaac Goosey.

Stapleton

Boys Cross-Country: Keith Morash.

Girls Cross-Country: Marianne Zuniga.

Football: Cayson Johnston.

Play Production: Cameron Berliner and Tessa Hansen.

Volleyball: Ellexis Hagan.

Lady Mavs Host Meet



KENDRA CUTLER - THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

Chloe Schaeffer works on getting a pin in recent Lady Mavs wrestling action.

The Sandhills Valley Maverick Lady Wrestlers hosted their annual meet on Saturday, December 9 in Stapleton. Minden was the winner with 125 points and North Platte was second with 105 points. They Lady Mavs ended the day in sixth place with 60 points.

Complete results of the local wrestlers were:

115 - Chloe Schaeffer (4-5) placed fifth and scored eight team points. Round 1 - Schaeffer won by fall over Jalie Barnhill, Ogalala, (Fall 1:53); Round 2 - Jadyn Cottam, Sidney, won by fall over Schaeffer, (Fall 1:00); Round 3 - Schaeffer received a bye; Round 5 - Schaeffer won by decision over Jade Stockton, North Platte, (Dec 4-2); Round 6 - Myia Hofaker, Minden, won by fall over Schaeffer, (Fall 3:31).

120 - Saije Phelps (9-0) placed first and scored 20 team points. Round 1 - Phelps won by fall over Kaitlyn Freiberg, Ogalala, (Fall :54; Round 2 - Phelps won by fall over Emry McGreer, Perkins County, (fall :15); Round 3 - Phelps won by fall over Nelly Hoche, Ainsworth, (Fall :52); Championship bracket - Phelps won by fall over Felicia Kerkman, West Holt, (Fall 1:13); 1st Place Match - Phelps won by fall over

Marianne Zuniga, Sandhills Valley, (Fall 1:52).

120 - Marianne Zuniga (7-1) placed second - Round 1 - Zuniga won by fall over Bryanne Bayne, Maxwell, (Fall 1:46); Round 2 - Zuniga won by fall over Janalliah Bourgeois, North Platte, (Fall 2:35); Round 3 - Zuniga won by fall over Felicia Kerkman, West Holt, (Fall 3:32); Championship Bracket - Zuniga won by fall over Nelly Hoche, Ainsworth, (Fall 1:07); 1st Place Match - Saije Phelps, Sandhills Valley, won by fall over Zuniga (fall 1:52).

155 - Mariah Duran, (8-1) placed first and scored 26 team points. Round 1 - Duran won by fall over Trinity Carr, Minden, (Fall :22); Round 2 - Duran won by fall over Meka Daub, McCook, (Fall :41); Round 3 - Duran won by fall over Brooke Schilke, Chase County, (Fall 1:02); Championship Bracket - Duran won by fall over Morgan Schaaf, West Holt, (Fall 1:24); 1st Place Match - Duran won by fall over Brooke Schilke, Chase County, (Fall 2:26).

The Lady Mavs were in McCook on December 14 and Cambridge on December 16. They won't be in action until December 29 in North Platte with start time at 11:00 a.m.

Omaha World Herald Releases State Football Selections

The Omaha World Herald released its all state football selections for all classes for the 2023 season. It was an outstanding season for high school football in the area and the numerous names listed as first team all state lend credibility to that. The Class D2 state champion Sandhills/Thedford placed three players on the Class D2 all state first team.

Kyle Cox was selected as quarterback on the all state first team offense and was named as honorary captain for the offensive unit. Cox's amazing season was highlighted by a record setting performance in the D2 state championship game rushing for 486 yards (a D2 state playoff record). Joining Cox on the first team offense was teammate Rhett McFadden on the offensive line. Zeb Wilde of Sandhills/Thedford was a first team defensive selection on the defensive line.

South Loup placed three players on the D2 all state first team. The Bobcats went through the regular season undefeated including a win

Twin Loup - Quincy Ryker

Obituaries

Charles G. ("Moonpie") Mooneyhan III, 82, born October 14, 1941, went to be with the Lord on December 1, 2023, at Genoa, Nebraska, after a short illness.

He lived around North Platte, Stapleton, and Hershey for the last 12 years where he made a lot of friends. He had retired from the agriculture industry. His most recent job was at Simplot Grower Solutions in Hershey.

He was originally from Sumter, South Carolina, where he started farming after finishing high school. Moonpie enjoyed live music, cooking and eating southern food and barbeque and was well known for his southern accent, his stories, and his burgundy tour bus, the "Twenty First Century Hobo."

He was the son of the

Charles G. "Moonpie" Mooneyhan III



1941 - 2023

late Charles G. (Marguerite) Mooneyhan II.

He leaves behind his son Charles (Chuck) G. Mooneyhan IV, daughter Heidi (Tom) Trull, grandson Joe, sisters Marlowe (Wayne) Ridgeway and Nancy Mooneyhan, and brother Michael (Ileen)

Mooneyhan.

He was laid to rest in a family cemetery on December 5 in Lee County, South Carolina.

Condolences may be sent to: Michael Mooneyhan, 162 Eargle Drive, West Columbia, SC, 29170.

Nominations Being Taken For 2024 Cowboy Hall of Fame

The public is invited to submit nominations for the 2024 Nebraska Sandhills Cowboy Hall of Fame. Nominations are due by December 31, 2023. Started in 2006, the Sandhills Cowboy Hall of Fame continues to honor the men and women who have made a lasting contribution to the Sandhills and our cowboy way of life.

Nomination forms are available by contacting any board member or Executive Secretary Rod

Palmer at P.O. Box 127, Ainsworth, NE or by calling 402-387-2212. Nominees must be 50 years or older or deceased. Board members include Dan Dailey in Brown County, A.B. Cox in Cherry County, Rich Boots in Hooker County, Charlie Daly in Thomas and Dick Caulfield in Keya Paha County.

The nominees must fit the following criteria: The Nebraska Sandhills Cowboy Hall of Fame honors those individuals

who have made extraordinary contributions to the Western lifestyle of horse culture in the area of competition, business, or support of rodeo in the Sandhills of Nebraska. This includes rodeo, ranching, rodeo stock contractors, western arts, western entertainment, and special achievements awards.

Online nomination forms are located at the website: www.sandhillscowboys.com.

Women In Ag Conference Registration Opens January 3

The 39th Nebraska Women in Agriculture Conference will be held Feb. 22-23, 2024, in Kearney, at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 110 Second Ave.

A pre-conference workshop on business entity selection for farms and ranches will be held Feb. 21. This training will be provided by Sheila Hansen, CPA, and agricultural attorney Katie Samples Dean, JD.

During the conference, attendees can look forward to hearing from keynote speakers Ashley Machado, Dr. David Kohl and renowned photographer John Noltner, who is preparing a special surprise project for the event.

In addition to the keynote speakers, participants will select from over 20 workshop options that cover the five areas of agricultural risk management: production, market, financial, human and legal. The conference will also offer Continuing Education Credits for veterinary medicine professionals and certified crop advisors.

"Our annual conference is a real highlight of our programming every year," said Jessica Groskopf, Director of the Nebraska Women in Agriculture program. "We look forward to bringing together producers, experts and top-notch

keynote speakers to leave everyone feeling empowered, enlightened and connected to each other and their operations. This year's conference will certainly be one to remember."

About the Speakers

Ashley Machado is a TedX speaker and was nominated as a 2023 FFA Change Maker. She is rethinking the way we support mental health in the food and ag space. She specializes in tangible tools and simple strategies through M Well, her mental health consulting firm that provides corporate wellness programs and mental health trainings for ag families and businesses. Machado grew up in the dairy industry and now farms and ranches with her family in California's Central Valley. She has a bachelor's degree in human development and a master's in social work with an emphasis in clinical mental health. Her goal is for everyone in the ag industry and rural America to have the tools they need in their mental health toolbox to operate and live life fully.

Dr. David Kohl is an Academic Hall of Famer in the College of Agriculture at Virginia Tech. He has been insight into the agriculture industry gained through extensive travel, research and involvement in ag businesses. He

has traveled nearly 10 million miles; conducted more than 7,000 presentations; and published more than 2,500 articles in his career. Dr. Kohl's wisdom and engagement with all levels of the industry provide a unique perspective into future trends.

John Noltner has been telling stories with words and images for 20 years. His work has appeared in National Geographic Traveler, Forbes Magazine, Midwest Living and the New York Daily News, among other publications. Since 2009, Noltner has been asking people the simple (or not so simple) question, "what does peace mean to you?" for his multimedia arts project, "A Peace of My Mind."

Conference registration opens on Jan. 3. The cost for a two-day registration is \$150 for participants who register on or before Feb. 8. The two-day registration fee increases to \$175 on Feb. 9. The pre-conference workshop has an additional registration fee.

The Nebraska Women in Agriculture program will award up to 15 scholarships to students to attend the 2024 Nebraska Women in Agriculture Conference. Any student attending a four-year college/university, two-year college, a vocational/technical school, or a 4-H or FFA member may apply for a scholarship to attend. Applicants will need to prepare an essay that answers the question: "Why do you want to attend the Nebraska Women in Agriculture Conference?" The essay response is limited to 3,000 characters. Applications must be submitted online by Feb. 1.

To learn more, visit the Nebraska Women in Agriculture website at <https://wia.unl.edu>.

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Applications must be post-marked by January 19, 2024.

For more information and application form, www.nebpress.com



Christmas Cards

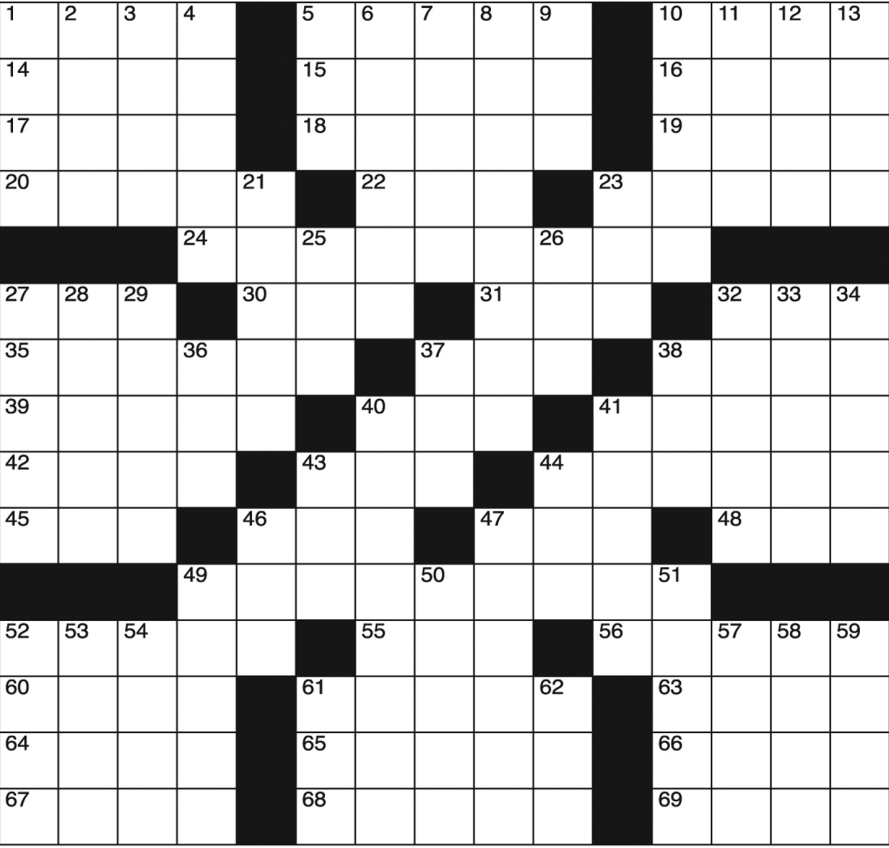


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We Hope You Enjoy These Puzzles
Answers Can Be Found Next Week On Page 11



CLUES ACROSS

1. Droops
5. Subatomic particle
10. Not in danger
14. Nursemaid
15. Black band worn in mourning
16. Long song in opera
17. Edible seed of a Philippine tree
18. Chicago political family
19. Pursues pleasure from one place to another
20. Appetizer
22. Hill (Celtic)
23. Simple shoe
24. Songs to one you love
27. Secret activities
30. Upset
31. Popular hot drink
32. Body art (slang)
35. Fired
37. Blood relation
38. Identical
39. Porticos

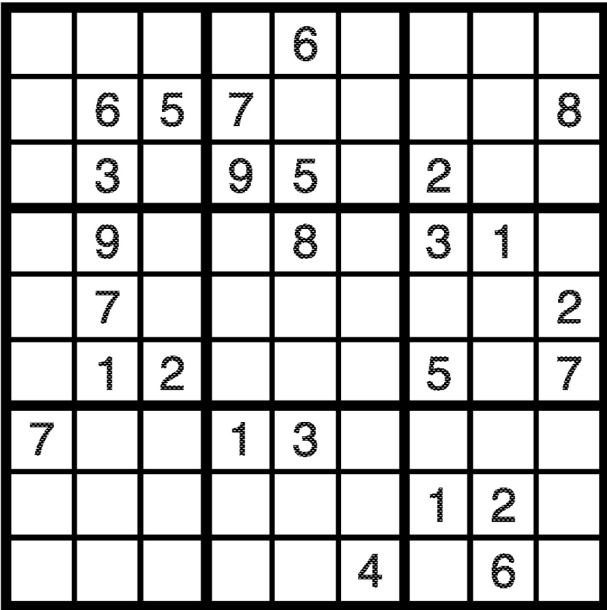
40. Partner to cheese
41. Type of sword
42. Enough (archaic)
43. Surface layer of ground
44. Cotton fabric woven like satin
45. Choose for a post
46. Father
47. Tell on
48. Indian title of respect
49. Fonts
52. Fencing sword
55. Mock
56. Vaccine developer
60. Atmosphere surrounding a person or place
61. Marten with a short tail
63. Chinese temple
64. Invests in little enterprises
65. Popular cut of meat
66. Charity
67. Iron-containing compound
68. River in Northern Europe
69. One point east of southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Exhausts
2. Genus of fish related to gars
3. Impudent behavior
4. Adherents to Islam
5. They come after A
6. Spoke
7. Room to receive guests
8. About opera
9. End-blown flute
10. Heroic tales
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Dog's name
13. Opposite of west
21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
23. Ocean
25. Cool!
26. Young woman about to enter society
27. One from central Caucasus
28. Indian city
29. A way to serve ice cream
32. Emaciation

33. Escort aircraft carrier
34. Italian city
36. Mythical settler of Kansas
37. Unhappy
38. High schoolers' test
40. Measured in pace
41. Satisfies
43. Gullible person
44. Enclosed space
46. Substance used to color something
47. Shirt type
49. Discover by investigation
50. _Castell, makers of pens
51. Semitic Sun god
52. Grads wear one
53. French river
54. Part of a cap
57. Digestive fluid
58. Metrical foot
59. Body part
61. Very fast airplane
62. Supplement with difficulty

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

From my desk...

Legislative News

District 42 - Mike Jacobson
402-471-2729 • mjacobson@leg.ne.gov

Carefully Considering Bills To Introduce

This week, I want to begin my article by congratulating the North Platte Area Chamber & Development Corporation for selecting White River Soy Processing to develop a soy processing plant inside the newly created Inland Port of the Plains near Hershey. This project and Sustainable Beef are projected to have a total of over \$2.3 billion in economic impact on the region. These opportunities will impact virtually everyone living in District 42, creating job opportunities in addition to positively impacting commodity prices in this area. Projects like these only happen because of the full commitment of everyone working together to get them across the finish line.

In other news, last week, the Legislature met for its annual Legislative Council Meeting. The meeting is used to issues facing the Legislature in the coming session. This year, Speaker John Arch began laying out some of the operational issues we experienced last year (other than the filibuster issues) that need to be resolved.

We also heard from Senator Tom Brandt, who chaired the interim study dealing with technology in the Capitol. As many of you know, the Capitol is a historic building that must not be structurally modified from its original design. This makes updating technology more difficult to accomplish. Nonetheless, we intend to improve the Wi-Fi inside the building and complete several other technology requests by Senators and the public. The interim study report outlined ways to increase the visibility of those in the speaking queue during floor debate, improve audio/visual systems in hearing rooms, and implement a possible countdown clock to allow Senators a better way to know how much time is remaining during any floor debate.

The Speaker also reported on LR179, an interim study focused on better public participation in a representative form of government, including easier ways to solicit public input on legislation even during

years when large numbers of bills are introduced. Given the number of controversial bills introduced this past session, some of the hearings ran all afternoon and into the evening. In a couple of cases, several individuals who planned to testify in person were unable to because time ran out. I believe the recommendations in this report will help bring more uniformity between committees so that the public can have a more consistent process to work through when giving their input.

We then spent time discussing possible rule changes proposed by the Speaker. These rule changes fell into three categories: technical corrections, codifying precedent, and process improvements. As a general rule, the members of the Legislature who were present for the meeting were generally supportive of the changes to technical rules and codifying precedent, but there was much debate over the other proposed rule changes.

The Speaker also outlined his proposed calendar for the upcoming session. Since a rules debate cannot be stopped through our current cloture rules, it makes changing controversial rules difficult if any members choose to filibuster any one proposed rule change. In 2017, the Legislature spent nearly one-third of the session attempting to make rule changes. Because of this, the Speaker has proposed scheduling all-day floor debate to take place on all proposed rule changes during Day 6 through Day 12. Any rule changes that have not passed by the end of Day 12 will fail to move forward, and the schedule will return to morning debate on other bills and afternoon committee hearings through February 29. We will then move to all-day floor debate beginning on March 4.

Since this session will be a short 60-day session, Day 59 is scheduled to fall on April 11. This session will go fast, so having a clear path for each bill will be important. Any bills that fail to pass by Day 60, will be indefi-



nitely postponed automatically. That is why I am carefully considering what bills I introduce in this session and which bills to push forward. I look forward to continuing to hear from you regarding issues that are important to you. It is a privilege to serve as your State Senator, and I will continue to give my full effort to make a positive difference for the District and the State. You can reach me at mjacobson@leg.ne.gov or 402-471-2729.



Providing for Our National Defense

The world is more dangerous today than it's been since the height of the Cold War. The terrorist group Hamas, backed by Iran, attacked Israel in October. Russia continues its war against Ukraine, threatening order and stability in Europe. And as China hungrily eyes Taiwan, the Communist nation has far outpaced the United States in production of important military assets, including nuclear weapons and naval ships.

That's why this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is so important. On the Senate Armed Services Committee, I've worked to ensure that the United States military is prepared to face any threat it may encounter — especially when it comes to our nu-

District 43 - Tom Brewer
402-471-2628 • tbrewer@leg.ne.gov

Troops Will Be Home For Christmas

Recently, 91 soldiers from C Troop, 134th Cavalry Regiment returned home to Beatrice from a spending almost a year deployed overseas to perform Operations "Spartan Shield" in Kuwait. I am so pleased the troops will be home for Christmas. That is such a blessing. I have spent several Christmas holidays overseas on a deployment and I know how incredible this must be for these soldiers. Well done C Troop!

I spent some time learning about "Operation Spartan Shield (OSS)" from the United States Central Command web page;

"Task Force Spartan maintains a U.S. military posture in Southwest Asia sufficient to strengthen our defense relationships and build

partner capacity."

This mission statement bothers me. I am having difficulty understanding it correctly. What exactly does "maintain[s] a U.S. military posture" mean? What does; "strengthen our defense relationships and build partner capacity" mean?

From what I can gather, most of Task Force Spartan is made up of Army National Guard units from several different states. I am left scratching my head asking myself why the National Guard is doing a mission that is very obviously an active duty Army mission. The answer is simple: the regular US Army is having a hard time recruiting and retaining soldiers. Last year DoD fell short by over 15,000 recruits. I am told this



year the numbers are even worse. I find it very disturbing that members of congress are finding that DoD is not giving them a straight answer on strength and readiness. When elected officials cannot say how many troops our military is lacking, that should be setting off alarm bells.

The Army National Guard is suffering the same difficult recruiting and retention challenges the active duty Army is. The problem this makes for Nebraska is with all of the employers whose support for the Guard we utterly depend on. I had an employer express this same concern to me. He asked why an employer in Nebraska has to give time off to Nebraska National Guard troop that works for his company, to go and perform an overseas regular Army mission that has nothing to do with Nebraska. That's a darn good question. When I was in Washington, D.C. this week, I shared this question with the five members of Nebraska congressional delegation.

Everywhere you look there is a help wanted sign. The labor shortage is being felt clear across the country. When the labor shortage effects the US Army, it is the National Guard who bails them out, just like they have for the last 387 years. That said, let's hope the Guard is ready to help when Nebraska needs them. There is a limit to how much the active duty military can use the National Guard before the States start to suffer.

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to call. Please contact my office with any comments, questions or concerns. Email me at: tbrewer@leg.ne.gov. Mail a letter to; Sen. Tom Brewer, Room #1423, P.O. Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509 or call us at (402) 471-2628.

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Page 12

Dec. 14 Puzzle Answers

	A	P	E		A	D	P		A	C	T	
	W	A	X		P	A	L		P	A	C	
S	T	I	C	H		P	R	O		P	S	H
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R	E	G	A	L	I	A			P	A	R	A
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3	7	2	5	4	8	9	6	1
1	6	4	9	7	2	3	5	8
8	9	5	6	3	1	2	4	7
4	1	7	2	8	3	5	9	6
2	3	6	7	9	5	1	8	4
5	8	9	1	6	4	7	2	3
6	4	1	3	5	9	8	7	2
9	2	8	4	1	7	6	3	5
7	5	3	8	2	6	4	1	9

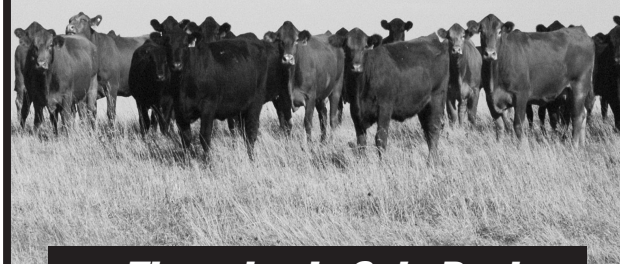
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From The Desk Of
Logan County
Sheriff
Sean Carson

November 11, 2023
Kip C. Russell, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Brent D. Garner, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
David D. Duncan, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00 fine.
Gage M. Haake, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Kelsey M. Abernathy, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00 fine.
Jon D. Weber, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Rico S. Curry, carrying concealed weapon, reduced, \$1,00.00 fine.
November 18, 2023
Cole M. Cartwright, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00 fine.
Marsha J. Giere, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00 fine.
Francisco J. Mar-

quezchavez, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00 fine.
Roger T. Kaeding, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Trevor P. Alexander, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Todd A. Hoerler, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Matthew L. Francis, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00 fine.
Edward L. Mayo, speeding 16-20 MPH, \$125.00 fine.
Bruce C. Barnum, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Kirk A. Neal, 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Diane R. Knievel, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00 fine.
Brea D. Branic, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.

Walter O. Vindel Chavez, speeding, 11-15 MPH, \$75.00, no operator's license, \$75.00 fine.
Cheryl F. Johnson, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00 fine.
Jeffrey A. Duran, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Jose E. Perez Codero, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00, no valid registration, car/pickup, \$25.00 fine.
Arnold E. Albrecht, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Jackie B. Bucholz, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Judy L. Abts, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Christodean Williams, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00 fine.
Russell W. Burge, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Cory J. Piel, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Zachary T. Abbott, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.

Graphic Files (Continued from page 6)

Priest took Mrs. Ruby Baker (high school teacher) to North Platte Tuesday evening to take the bus for Omaha for her holiday vacation.
Elaine Allen and Maudene Haskell left Wednesday night to spend Christmas vacation in Colorado with the Pete Allen family.
EIGHTY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 23, 1943
The Ringgold Community Club met with Mrs. Adolph Schmidt last Wednesday. It was decided to have the annual oyster supper at the Clinton Waits home on New Year's Eve. The January meeting will be held at the Merrill Chapman home.
Fern Clark arrived here Saturday at the home of her sister, Mrs. F.S. Snyder, and will spend Christmas here. Mrs. Snyder and Jimmie Ray plan to accompany her home to Cheyenne and spend a week there.
Miss Rose Lamb returned home Tuesday after a prolonged stay in the hospital and at the home of her sister, Mrs. Kenneth Schroder. Rose received a broken pelvis when she was thrown from a horse several weeks ago. It is hoped that she will be able to return to her school teaching work shortly after the holidays.
NINETY YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 21, 1933
Miss Ethel Layher (who later became Mrs. Clarence Pinkerton), gave a Christmas program and dance in the school house of District No. 5 School Saturday night. The program was well presented and deserved the praise it

brought from those present.
The Christmas pageant held at the auditorium in Tryon Sunday evening was attended by a very large crowd. About 75 people took part in the pageant.
Paul Bender was a North Platte visitor Sunday and called on Stub Allington who is in a hospital there, following an operation for appendicitis.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 20, 1923
Mrs. Heber Newberry gave a surprise dinner for Mr. Newberry on Sunday, the occasion being his birthday. A large number of friends and relatives attended and all report having a fine time.

The Bureau of Mines at Washington is working on a plan to dye motor gasoline red in order for water, kerosene or other less dangerous liquids.

Boy's Basketball

Junior BJ Goforth had eight points, four rebounds, and one steal.
Leyton Connell had five points, six rebounds, five assists, and five steals.
Cayson Johnston had two points and one rebound.
The Mavericks put up a good fight against the Maywood/Hayes Center Wolves in a packed house. They came up just short by a final score of 52-59.
Leyton Connell led the team with 21 points, eight rebounds, two assists and three steals.
Cooper Layher had 11 points, but cut his night short getting hurt late in the third quarter.

November 25, 2023
Ronald J. Long, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00 fine.
Cash C. Fees, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Shaun R. Spangler, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Diana J. Rojas Fernandez, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00 fine.
Robert W. Ryall, speeding 21-35 MPH, \$200.00 fine.

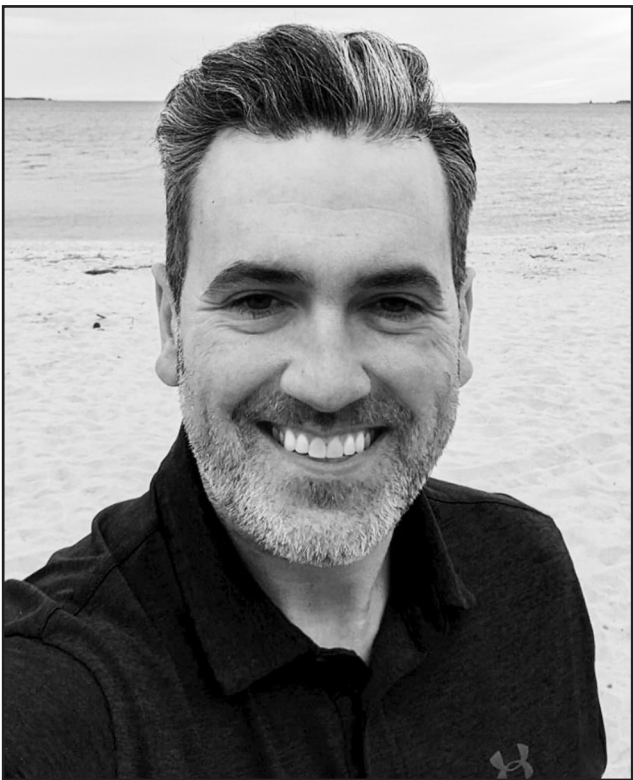
December 2, 2023
David A. Dal Porto, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
David J. Diedtrich, speeding 21-35 MPH, \$200.00 fine.
David D. Stiles, speeding 11-15 MPH, \$75.00 fine.
Larry E. Fiore, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.
Clarissa E. Hunt, speeding 6-10 MPH, \$25.00 fine.

(Continued from page 9)

Kyle Kramer had a big night on the boards with 10 rebounds, one block, one steal and seven points.
Isaac Goosey had nine points, three rebounds, one assist, and one steal.
BJ Goforth had two points, two rebounds, and two assists.
Braden Powell had seven rebounds, two points, two assists, and one steal.
The boys continue to push hard and get better every game. They took on the Twin Loup Wolves in Taylor on Dec. 15 and played Wauneta-Palisade on December 16.

Brosius Awarded Meritorious Civilian Service Award

John P. Brosius, son of Dennis and Trudy Brosius of Stapleton, received the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal from the Department of the Army. The medal was awarded Tuesday, December 5, 2023.
Brosius demonstrated initiative and skill in devising new and improved equipment, work methods, and procedures; inventions resulting in substantial savings in expenses such as manpower, time, space, and materials, improvements in safety or health of the workforce. The Meritorious Civilian Service Award is the third highest award granted by U.S. Army Commanders.
John lives in Rock Island Illinois, with his wife Tierney, and two children, Jack and Rowan.



COURTESY

Fisher

(Continued from page 11)
deter our adversaries, who we know already possess this capability. The United States cannot give up on important capabilities, especially as China's navy expands in the Pacific and South China Sea.
But it's not just physical weapons we should be concerned about – Chinese propaganda is also a serious problem. I included a provision in this bill that prevents our Department of Defense from participating in entertainment projects linked to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Taxpayer dollars should never enable China's disinformation war.
The defense bill also includes my provisions increasing cooperation between our armed forces and our international partners. For example, the NDAA makes it easier for the U.S. and Israel to share key technology, particularly missile defense programs.
The NDAA's impact will stretch from Nebraska to our nation as a whole to countries around the globe. We will always have more work to do as America's adversaries continue to modernize and grow their militaries, threatening us and our allies and partners. But this year's bill shows the world – and more importantly, our enemies – that the United States will not back down.
Thank you for participating in the democratic process. I look forward to visiting with you again next week.

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Odds & Ends (Continued from page 4)

mas well? Is it purchasing extravagant gifts that we cannot afford? Is it decking the halls and trimming the tree to the extreme?
For Ebenezer Scrooge it was primarily a matter of generosity, joyfulness, fairness in the workplace, and caring for people in need.
He became a good friend and as good a friend the city had known. As praiseworthy as all of the things that he did, is this all there is to keeping Christmas well? Is there more?
No matter how we try to change Christmas there is one essential event. The birth of Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, because there was no room for him and his parents at the inn. This seemingly insignificant event was in fact the watershed event of history, the entrance of the Word of God into human life as human flesh.
Keeping Christmas well means paying close attention, not only to what

happened at Christmas, but especially to its meaning. Christmas changes everything, including how we live each and every day.
We need to honor Christmas each day, not only in our hearts, but in our relationships, service to others, in our finances, and the way we treat others.
Merry Christmas, readers.
Dave Says
(Continued from page 4)
loan program out there and then tell you the way to success was to borrow tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars for a degree in left-handed puppetry. And now, guess what? You're a barista! Then, they start shouting they're going to forgive it all. After that it's, "No, we're not. Yes, we are. No, we're not. Yes, we are."
The fact is, they don't intend to forgive it. It's the biggest scam in history—mathematically speaking—perpetrated on the American public by our government.

— Dave

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Sat. - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sun. - 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

308-636-2999

Village Board Proceedings

(Continued from page 2)

6-year plan for 2024. Kramer seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

- Motion by Kramer to approve Ordinance #237 Alley Vacate-Walz, waiving the 3 readings. Vasquez seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Hora made a motion to accept Resolution #1-2024. Kramer seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Hora made a motion to accept Resolution #2-2024. Harwager seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Kramer made a motion to accept Resolution #3-2024. Harwager seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Kramer made a motion to accept Resolution #4-2024. Harwager seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Vasquez made a motion to accept Resolution #5-2024. Harwager seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Vasquez made a motion to accept Resolution #6-2024. Kramer seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Kramer made a motion to accept Resolution #7-2024. Hora seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Hora made a motion to accept Resolution #8-2024 Vasquez seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Kramer made a motion to accept Resolution #9-2024. Vasquez seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Vasquez made a motion to accept Resolution #10-2024. Kramer seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Audit Waiver filed.
- Open discussion:
- Received 3 grants
- Maintenance report:
 - Sewer jetted, 3 year state inspection, burn dump inspected, iron drive ongoing, new well and meter running great.
- Approval of claims:
- Motion by Kramer to pay the claims as presented. Hora seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Frey, Mark L. Equipment/Vehicle Rental Mark.....250.00

Stacey E Anderson

Stacey

Cell Phone.....126.00

Mark L Frey

Paycheck.....2,207.62

Mark L Frey

Retirement.....260.88

Stacey E Anderson

Paycheck1,543.60

Schroeder & Schroeder, P.C.

Attrny Fees.....234.76

American Agricultural Laboratory

Water Sample45.50

Viaero Wireless

Maint Phone95.50

One Call Concepts, Inc

Locates4.76

Ideal Linen Supply

Inv # 22137080.....155.42

Barco Municipal Products Inc.

Snow Route Signs/ Posts.....1,106.03

Downey Drilling Inc.

Well.....15,121.05

Weems,

Clayton & Amanda

Trash Deposit

Return100.00

Nebraska Public Health Environment

Invoice #57163216.00

Frey's General Store

Supplies For

Village Use485.61

Larry's Glass

Door Closer.....153.87

Sadie Trimble Cleaning

Cleaning

Monthly.....170.00

Village Of Stapleton

Water Tank

Savings915.00

Frey Pivot Service, Inc.

Inv# 39853,526.00

Dan's Propane

Propane.....336.51

Stapleton Coop

Market & Deli

C Center.....29.86

Great Plains Telephone

Telephone/ Internet292.98

City Of North Platte

Landfill.....2,185.23

Menards

Inv # 8755629.98

Creative Printers

Invoice #4655246.42

Jack H Brummet

Paycheck510.13

Macqueen Equip

Street

Sweeper34,500.00

Wex Bank

Fuel.....1,061.68

NE Safety & Fire Equipment

Inv# 115424 Fire Alarm

Inspection125.00

Lexington ASWA

Landfill.....304.50

Country Partners

Cooperative

Fuel, Oil.....677.90

CPPD

Electricity1,477.69

Anita L Harwager,

Trustee

Paycheck.....55.41

Dan Beckius, Chairman

Paycheck.....55.41

Larry Vasquez , Trustee

Paycheck.....55.41

Steven R Kramer,

Trustee

Paycheck.....55.41

Wayne Hora,

Vice Chairman

Paycheck.....55.41

Logan County Treasurer

Grant For Flock

Cameras5,000.00

NMC- Cat

Pay Loader

Repair.....384.58

Stacey E Anderson

Mileage

To NP CPA59.60

Brubaker CPA

CPA/IT2,170.00

Microsoft Store

Software105.49

Mark L Frey

Paycheck2,207.63

TOTAL.....78,479.43

Approval of Treasurers Report:

- Motion by Kramer to move \$40,000.00 from Act# 20482618 to Act#116-321. Harwager seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Motion by Harwager to move \$40,000.00 from Act# 116-321 to Act#20482618. Kramer seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Motion by Kramer to move \$3,000.00 from Act# 40171 to Act# 116-321. Vasquez seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Motion by Kramer to move \$31,000.00 from Act# 2064 to Act# 116-321. Vasquez seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Motion by Kramer to

move \$6,000.00 from Act# 20418739 to Act#116.321. Vasquez seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

- Motion by Harwager to accept new loan Act# 449608 with Community First Bank in amount of \$34,575.00, interest rate 4.25% interest rate, payment \$1,025.64 due on 13th of each month, until 12/13/26. Kramer seconded. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.
- Motion by Vasquez to approve Treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Hora. Approved 5-0. Roll call vote: Aye: Beckius, Aye: Hora, Aye: Vasquez, Aye: Harwager, Aye: Kramer. Nay: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Next meeting: January 10, 2024 at 7:30 P.M. at Village Hall.

Adjourn meeting: 9:25 P.M.

Dan Beckius, Chairman

Stacey E. Anderson, Village Clerk

Publish: Dec. 21, 2023 ZNEZ

Village Of Stapleton Annual Resolutions

VILLAGE OF STAPLETON ANNUAL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #1-2024

BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON, NEBRASKA, THAT ALL REGULAR AND/OR SPECIAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL. ALL REGULAR MEETINGS SHALL BE HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:30 P.M.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

ATTEST:

Stacey Anderson, Village Clerk

Dan Beckius, Chairman

Publish: December 21, 2023 ZNEZ

RESOLUTION #2-2024

BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON, NEBRASKA, THAT THE ANNUAL WAGES OF THE VILLAGE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES BE SET AS FOLLOWS:

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 13th DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

Trustees: \$60.00/month - \$720.00/year

Village Clerk/Treasurer: \$26.00/hour

Maintenance Supervisor: \$46,592.16/year.

Mark Frey Health Insurance: \$21,056.52/year.

Maintenance Vehicle, Equipment Rent: \$3,000.00/year

Compensation in Lieu of Retirement: \$3,780.00/year.

Street Superintendent: \$600.00/year.

Maintenance Assist: \$15.00/hour.

ATTEST:

STACEY E. ANDERSON, VILLAGE CLERK

DAN BECKIUS, CHAIRMAN

Publish: December 21, 2023 ZNEZ

RESOLUTION #3-2024

Whereas, it becomes necessary to designate a depository for the fund of the Village of Stapleton, in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON, NEBRASKA, THAT THE COMMUNITY FIRST BANK WILL BE THE BANK FOR THE FUNDS OF THE VILLAGE AND THAT THE VILLAGE TREASURER IS HEREBY COMMANDED AND AUTHORIZED TO DEPOSIT

ALL MONEY OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON THAT MAY COME INTO HER HANDS AND POSSESSION IN SAID BANK ABOVE DESIGNATED.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

ATTEST:

STACEY E. ANDERSON, VILLAGE CLERK

DAN BECKIUS, CHAIRMAN

Publish: December 21, 2023 ZNEZ

RESOLUTION #4-2024

BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON, NEBRASKA, TO ACCEPT AS SECURITY FOR PROTECTION OF DEPOSITS OF THE VILLAGE, THE SAID INSURANCE AFFORDED DEPOSITORS IN THE COMMUNITY FIRST BANK, NEBRASKA. UNDER THE FEDERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

PASSED. APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023

ATTEST:

STACEY E. ANDERSON, VILLAGE CLERK

DAN BECKIUS, CHAIRMAN

Publish: December 21, 2023 ZNEZ

RESOLUTION #5-2024

BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON, NEBRASKA, THAT WHEREAS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND CHAIRMAN OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON HAS HERETOFORE, BY RESOLUTION SET SALARIES OF THE VARIOUS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE SAID VILLAGE IT IS ACCEPTED THAT THE MONTHLY BILL FOR ELECTRICITY, TELEPHONE, MONTHLY SOCIAL SECURITY TAX AND ALL OTHER QUARTERLY TAXES WILL NOT REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. THIS RESOLUTIONS IS SPECIFIC TO COVER ONLY SALARIES, REGULAR MONTHLY BILLS AND PRE-APPROVED EXPENDITURES.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

ATTEST:

STACEY E. ANDERSON, VILLAGE CLERK

DAN BECKIUS, CHAIRMAN

Publish: December 21, 2023 ZNEZ

RESOLUTION #6-2024

BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON, NEBRASKA, THAT THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR ALL OFFICIAL NOTICES OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON WILL BE THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE, STAPLETON, NEBRASKA.

PASSED. APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

ATTEST:

STACEY E. ANDERSON, VILLAGE CLERK

DAN BECKIUS, CHAIRMAN

Publish: December 21, 2023 ZNEZ

RESOLUTION #7-2024

BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON, NEBRASKA, THAT STACEY ANDERSON, VILLAGE TREASURER AND MARK FREY, MAINTENANCE MAN, BE BONDED FOR \$50,000.00 FOR FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE, AND THAT THE BOND OF \$10,000.00 BE FOR CARD FORGERY.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

ATTEST:

STACEY E. ANDERSON, VILLAGE CLERK

DAN BECKIUS, CHAIRMAN

Publish: December 21, 2023 ZNEZ

RESOLUTION #8-2024

BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON, NEBRASKA, THAT THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS SHALL TAKE EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2024

CHAIRMAN: Dan Beckius.

VICE CHAIRMAN: Wayne Hora

ADMINISTRATOR: Dan Beckius

VILLAGE CLERK/TREASURER: Stacey Anderson

VILLAGE ATTORNEY: Schroeder & Schroeder

STREET SUPERINTENDENT: Brent Burk-lund

VILLAGE ENGINEER: T.C. Engineering, Inc.

VILLAGE AUDITORS: Gwen Brubaker CPA/CFE, CFE.

PARK COMMISSION: Dan Beckius, Wayne Hora, Larry Vasquez, Steve Kramer, Anita Harwager and Mark Frey

STREET COMMISSION: Dan Beckius, Wayne Hora, Larry Vasquez, Steve Kramer, Anita Harwager, and Mark Frey.

TREE BOARD: Dan Beckius, Wayne Hora, Larry Vasquez, Steve Kramer, Anita Harwager and Mark Frey.

SOLID WASTE MEMBER: Mark Frey, Stacey Anderson.

BOARD OF HEALTH: Dan Beckius, Wayne Hora, Sean Carson, and Robin Dimmitt.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023.

ATTEST:

STACEY E. ANDERSON, VILLAGE CLERK

DAN BECKIUS, CHAIRMAN

Publish: December 21, 2023 ZNEZ

RESOLUTION 9-2024

BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON, NEBRASKA, THAT STACEY ANDERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED PURCHASING AGENT FOR THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON TO APPROVE PURCHASES FOR AMOUNTS \$100.00 BUT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000.00, INCLUDES PURCHASES WITH CREDIT/DEBIT CARD. FOR GENERAL MAINTENANCE ON EMERGENCY PURCHASES NEEDED BETWEEN BOARD MEETINGS.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

ATTEST:

STACEY E. ANDERSON, VILLAGE CLERK

DAN BECKIUS, CHAIRMAN

Publish: December 21, 2023 ZNEZ

RESOLUTION 10-2024

BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STAPLETON, NEBRASKA THAT CREATIVE PRINTERS, LLC IS APPROVED TO HOLD TASTINGS FROM JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024.

PASSED. APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

ATTEST:

STACEY E. ANDERSON, VILLAGE CLERK

DAN BECKIUS, CHAIRMAN

Publish: December 21, 2023 ZNEZ

Be An Informed Citizen!
Read the Notices.
It's Your Right To Know.

My Christmas Card To Area Readers



Twass the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, in a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone. I had come down the chimney with presents to give, and to see just who in this home did live. I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand, and on the wall pictures of far distant lands. With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sobering thought came to my mind. For this house was different, so dark and so dreary, the home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home. The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I pictured a United States soldier. Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers, who were willing to fight. Soon round the world, the children would play, and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day. They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home. The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry. The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my God, my country, my corps." The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep. I kept watch for hours, so silent and still, and we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night, this guardian of honor so willing to fight. Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure." One look at my watch, and I knew he was right. "Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

By Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

From David Olson, North Platte, NE
Dedicated to My Veteran Friends and
Red Friday
Remember Everyone Deployed

Cutting Edge (Continued from page 4)
into the shelter.
Quickly, he put on a coat and galoshes and he tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light so the birds would know the way in. But the birds did not come in.
So, he figured that food would entice them. He hurried back to the house and fetched some bread crumbs. He sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail of bread crumbs to the yellow-lighted wide open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs.
The birds continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catch-

ing them but could not. He tried shooting them into the barn by walking around and waving his arms. Instead, they scattered in every direction ... every direction except into the warm lighted barn.
And that's when he realized they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me. That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Any move he made tended to frighten them and confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shoed because they

feared him.
He thought to himself, if only I could be a bird and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to the safe warm ... to the safe warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see ... and hear ... and understand.
At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind.
He stood there listening to the bells, Adeste Fidelis, listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas.
And he sank to his knees in the snow ...



Thank you

V.F.W. Post 8258 & American Legion Post 324 would like to thank those who supported us in our John Deere Gator raffle. Congratulations to Veronica Neal who was the winner!

The Season's Best



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Herbie's SPEAKEASY
WINE & SPIRITS



It has been our pleasure serving your insurance needs in 2023.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Cole Kinderknecht, Rudy Vickers, Patti Schwarz
Makenna Smith, Jackie Schwanebeck

ARNOLD INSURANCE AGENCY

Merry Christmas
from all of us to all of you



Jodi Carlson (owner), Steph Reed, Al'NajahEastman, Jailyn Strasburg
Diana Coleman & Sydney Fletcher

You've certainly brightened our year!

50% off Christmas merchandise
Dec. 26th - Dec. 30



REGULAR HOURS:
Tues.-Wed.-Thurs.-Fri. - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

308-529-0228 • 106 S Walnut • Arnold



MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



Becky Dailey • Taylour Snyder

Thank you for choosing us and we look forward to serving your insurance needs in 2024.



1st
First State Insurance
ARNOLD

May your family flourish with the Lord's blessings of the land.



Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!





Duane McClain
Owner/Broker
308.532.LAND





Dear Santa,

**All I Want
For
Christmas Is.....**

By: Stapleton Preschool

Dane Knievel
Little horse and a big truck

Luis Tello
Pizza room

MacKenzie Higgins
New boots

Slate Fellows
Star Wars Legos

Ariana Harvey
My size doll I can dress in real clothes

Oakleigh Palmer
Toy dinosaur

Brooklyn Ramirez
Bike

Brewer McVay
Pokemon

Kade Kramer
Dinosaurs

Dustin Perez
Play toaster

**All I Want
For
Christmas!**

**By the
Stapleton
Public Schools
Kindergarten
Class**



Bria Boeser - A coloring set
Liam Clouse - Electric scooter
Rorie Connell - Toy cat
Landon Duran - Toy motorcycle & nerf gun
Deklyn Krentz - Spiderman costume
Jaxson Myers - Mighty pups
Ansley Schaeffer - Barbie car
Steele Schaeffer - Go cart
Trace Stewart - Lego army car
Corbin Walz - Ironman suit



**Stapleton
Public
Schools
First Grade**

My Christmas wish is to spend time with Grandpa and Grandma. I will help Grandpa feed the cows. I will play with Grandma. I will sled with Grandpa and Grandma.

By Urijah Harvey

My Christmas wish is to be with my family. We will put the Christmas tree up. I will decorate the Christmas tree and put the star up. I will put the Christmas lights up.

By Wyatt Swim

My Christmas Wish is to watch Christmas movies. I think it is fun because me and my Mom like to watch Christmas movies. I want to watch the Grinch Who Stole Christmas.

By Nathan Padgett

My Christmas wish is to bake cookies. I will bake chocolate chip cookies. I will eat my cookies with my family. I will give Santa some of the cookies.

By Leia Joedeman

My Christmas wish is to spend time with Grandpa and Grandma. We will decorate the tree. I want to make bear cookies with Grandma. I can help Grandpa put up Christmas lights on the house.

By Cole Higgins

My Christmas wish is to spend time with Grandpa and Grandma. I will play games and watch movies. We will open presents.

By Dan Harwager

My Christmas wish is to go to the store. I want to get my Dad some tools. For my mom I want a gnome. I would get my cousin a pair of baby yoda socks.

By Otis Weekly

My Christmas wish is to go shopping with my family to buy chocolate cookies. I want to go sledding and we decorate the tree. My sister will spend the night.

By Jalissa Deardoff

My Christmas wish is to go to the bowling

alley. I want to play arcade games. I want to bowl with my family. I want to ride on the motorcycle with my brother.

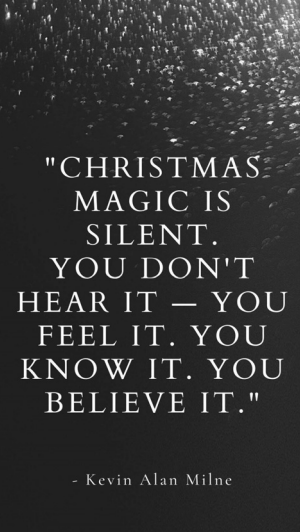
By Rhett Knievel

My Christmas wish is to spend time with my family. I love spending time with my family. We will watch a Christmas movie. We will open presents.

By Raylen Neal

My Christmas wish is to go shopping. I want to get presents for my family. I will get dad some tools. I will get toys for my brothers and sister. I will get my mom security cameras.

By Dominic Perez



- Kevin Alan Milne

**All I want for
Christmas is.....**



**By: The
McPherson Co.
Kindergarten**

All I want for Christmas is a train with a table.

Mason Streiff



**My Favorite
Christmas
Tradition**

**By
McPherson Co.
Second Grade**

My Favorite Christmas Tradition is setting up the Christmas tree with ornaments.

Greysen Streiff

My Favorite Christmas Tradition is going to my grandma's for Christmas eve.

KayCee Connell

My favorite Christmas tradition is to hang a wreath on our tree.

Lexi Coker

My favorite Christmas tradition is go to my Grandma's house.

Reatta Rundback



**Thank you to all who
contribute stories, news
items & photos!**

MAY YOUR DAYS BE

MERRY &

bright

AND ALL YOUR

CHRISTMASES WHITE.

SUBLIME
(boutique)

Decor

JEWELRY

Womens Clothing

HATS & MORE

**636-8357
STAPLETON**

Celebrating

The Reason For The Season



Steve, Cindy and Shawna

Merry Christmas, friends, and thanks for all your loyal patronage. We wish you all the best!

Closing @ Noon December 23
Closed Christmas Day



**Stuff-it-Storage
The Sun Loft**

**Mill Iron
Campground
The Bunkhouse**

*Holiday
Cheer*

Thanks for stopping in
and making our year
so merry and bright.

*Give a gift certificate
to Herbie's....always
the right color and size!*



**Herbie's
SPEAKEASY**

WINE & SPIRITS

Located in Creative Printers • Stapleton



Thanks to our customers for your trust, support and friendship. May faith, friends, and loved ones light up your life this Christmas season.

Musser Well Drilling

NICK & BRENDA MUSSER • TRYON



By:
Stapleton
Second
Grade

My favorite Christmas memory was that I got a huge toy semi when I was 7. I still play with it. I got a Nerf gun. It was so cool. I got Legos and I lost most of the pieces, but I have a lot more Legos. I got a blanket from Mrs. Klosen and I still have it. My mom told us a story that when she was a kid she saw Santa helping a skinny horse. At last, we gave Santa cookies. That was my favorite Christmas memory.

By Kutter Schell

My favorite Christmas memory is going to my grandparents' house. We got to look at Christmas lights. At Christmas, we got to open presents with my family. On Christmas, we also got to bake cookies. Then we got to play in the snow. I played with my brothers. On the way home, we got to see Christmas colors. We got to see Santa Claus. The next morning we got presents from Santa. He gave me new boots. Santa got me a remote control jeep for Christmas. That is my favorite Christmas memory.

By Cord Swim

My favorite Christmas memory was looking at the lights in North Platte. I went to Cody Park. We drove in our car and looked at lights. We saw lots of presents. I liked the machines they used. I liked the decorations on the water. I saw the most lights I had ever seen. This was my favorite Christmas memory.

By Gregory Walz

My favorite Christmas memory was going to Bullington's Christmas. I played with kids. They liked to play tag. When I

was young I got a fire truck from my grandma. I got to see family. I saw Uncle Cory, Uncle Brett, Aunt Velma, Marsha, and Grandma. There was yummy food to eat. I loved the stuffing. Their dessert was yummy to eat. My favorite food there was the mashed potatoes. I had fun at the Bullington Christmas.

By Flint Isom

My favorite Christmas memory is getting my goat dummy. My grandparents gave it to me at their house. I got a string with it. I tied it with my parents. Mom, Dad, and I raced to see who could tie the fastest. I used it to practice for the Jr. rodeo in Stapleton. I did goat tying in the rodeo. This was my favorite Christmas memory.

By Conner Kinderknecht

My favorite Christmas memory is looking at Christmas lights. We went to Cody Park and rode on the tractor. We walked all around and looked at the lights. We drank hot chocolate. I played in the park until the tractor picked us up to ride. We walked our dogs around too. Going to Cody Park was my favorite Christmas memory.

By Brekyn Stumpf

My favorite Christmas memory was when Santa got me a birthday present. It was a reindeer. It left me a card with its pawprint. It had a book with it. It left on Christmas night. It had an old name. It was Sparkledust. I may rename it

See Stapleton
Second Grade
Page B12

"My Favorite..."



Stapleton Public Schools Third Grade

Every year my family puts up the Christmas tree. We give out cookies or donuts for Santa to eat. We sometimes make reindeer food and we put a note saying "This is for the reindeer," for Santa to know it's for the reindeer. I like this tradition because I like decorating the tree and making the reindeer food and cookies or donuts for Santa.

Lily Ramirez

Every year we decorate our tree. My mom, dad and brothers decorate our tree with Santa and reindeer lights. My dad puts the star on. When its dark it lights up the house. I like to spend time with my family.

Rokker Sierks

Every Christmas we open presents first and then we go to Kramer Christmas and Myers Christmas. Then we go play with toys! Kramer Christmas is when we meet up with family and we give presents to each other. Myers Christmas is like Kramer Christmas but we eat food first and then we go open presents. It is my favorite tradition because we meet with family.

George Kramer

Every year my family drives the snowmobile. It is fun. It is fast and so so fun! I like this tradition because it is fun and it is special to me because we do it every year together.

Kalem Kramer

Every Christmas we go to my grandma's house and eat cookies and

watch Christmas movies. We go eat chocolate cookies and open Grandma's presents and papa's presents and watch Christmas movies. I like to see my grandma and papa.

Felyciti Krentz

Every Christmas we go sledding. We all take turns driving the four-wheeler with the tube hooked behind it. It is my favorite because we have a lot of fun.

Jhett Peterson

Every year my family makes reindeer food. We put oats and different colors of sprinkles into it. We also leave out some carrots and we put all of the food on the porch. This is my favorite tradition because it brings my family together!

Makadyn

Every year my favorite tradition is going moon back riding. This is when my grandma and mom ride horses, and my cousins and I walk in front of them. We go around the farm. We also go down the road. This is my favorite tradition because I get to spend time with my family.

Liam Duran

My family decorates the Christmas tree. We start by cutting a Christmas tree and then we put ornaments on the Christmas tree and finally we put lights on the tree. It is my favorite because we get to spend time with family.

Tye Schaeffer



"My Favorite Christmas Memory"

McPherson County
Third Grade

My favorite Christmas memory is getting Jamall. He is a bearded dragon. He is so funny and cool. He is so curious about everything. He also loves crickets and he will run after them. His beard turns black when he is mad or nervous. He has such a cool aquarium. It has a net that he likes and a rock to warm up when he gets cold. He has to have a heat lamp and he has to stay warm. I am so glad mom and dad got him for me.

Lee Coker

My favorite Christmas memory is when my family and I went to South Dakota. We bought a new, big Christmas tree. I got a big water-proof RC car. Then we had a Christmas dinner. We had a Christmas dance party. On the way home, we stopped and saw some family.

Ashton Harris

My favorite Christmas memory is me getting my toys. My favorites are Xbox, boots, and oculus. My boots are red, orange, and black. My oculus quest is a virtual reality headset. I like to play games on my Xbox. These are my favorite Christmas memories.

Jase White



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to you and yours at this
specil time of year.
Thank you for blessing my year
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Ann Wells

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My Christmas Vacation Plans:



Stapleton Fourth Grade

My Christmas plans are to go to Mexico! We get to see our house, bake a cake and ride motorcycles. I also love to collect conchas. I love to see my grandma and to see my pickup truck. I'm going to learn how to ride it. I love the food and see the big land my dad owns. Happy holidays!

Ofelia Tello

We are going mostly everywhere on Christmas. We are going to North Platte and only North Platte. That will be a lot. I do not want to be on the naughty list. It's not for presents, it's for

family love. Whoever is out there, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Raymond William Webster Jr.

On Christmas Eve we go to our dad's parents house to spend time with the people on that side of the family. We have supper, we give everyone their gifts, then we take turns unwrapping gifts. We say goodbye, then leave.

On Christmas, Brandon and I always wake up early, then we wake up our mom and dad and make them look at

what we got. Then we go through what everyone got. Then we enjoy ourselves for the rest of the day.

On the day after Christmas, our mom's side of the family comes to our house. First, we play with the toys we got for our birthday. Then we have supper with everyone and open our presents. Then slowly everyone starts to leave.

Luke Frey

Our Christmas plans this year are to decorate a bunch and do other amazing things. So, first we will hang lights on the house. Then we will put up our Christmas trees. We will then decorate the trees with red and gold ornaments and a star. After that we are going to make gingerbread houses and cookies. Then we are going to make reindeer food and put it out for them. After that we'll hang the stockings and put out cookies for Santa. Then me and my siblings will go to bed while mom and dad hide the ornament pickle in the tree for me and my siblings to find!!!! Merry Christmas!

Joel Stewart

We are going to our dad's parents on Christmas Eve to decorate the tree. Then we put our presents under the tree and that's when our aunt and uncle get there with our cousin. Then on Christmas Day our mom's parents and our other cousins and the kids sit on the floor and the adults sit on the chairs and couches. Then we pass out our presents and everyone opens their presents. I wish everyone has a Merry Christmas!

Brandon Frey

On Christmas break I want to do a lot of things. Here are some in order. First, on Christmas Eve I want to go to my Papa and Grandma Bodenhamer's to go to church, watch and play football then go in their hot tub. Then on Christmas Day I'll go do cow chores. I'll go to Pa and Granny Walz's house and hang out. Then the rest of Christmas break I want to hunt coyotes and work on the farm. I want to wish everyone a happy, warm, fun and safe Christmas!

Leo Walz

My Christmas plans are for a few day's work with Dad and farm for a while. Some more plans I have are sledding, throwing snowballs at Dad, biking on ice and playing with the dogs. The other plans I have are going to Grandma and Grandpa Joedeman's house and playing with my cousins for a while. Then every time my cousins we usually upgrade our forts and pillow fight with other cousins. Another plan of mine is to try to get Dad to let me go on the four-wheeler. Some more of my plans are to go over to Mimi and Papa's house and make some more gingerbread houses and put them downstairs. Finally, sleep downstairs and have fun in the morning. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

Duke Joedeman

Usually my family has the kids play outside. Then when we come back we have hot cocoa. Then we obviously open presents...

Liam Barnhill

My Christmas Vacation Plans:



McPherson Co. Fourth Grade

My Christmas vacation plans are going to my Grandma's house in Benkelman. We will spend time with family. We will also wait for Christmas to open our presents there. Then we will go to our Grandpa's house in Bridgeport and spend time with him. Then we go back to school when it is all over.

Bryson Phelps

My Christmas vacation plans are that a few days before Christmas every year, we go to Grandma's and eat turkey or ham. Then my whole family opens gifts from them. Normally on Christmas Eve, everyone picks one small gift to open. On Christmas we go to my great Grandma's house. We eat ham, then play around, then open gifts before we leave. When we get home, we eat a third dinner and about 8:00 we get to open all our presents.

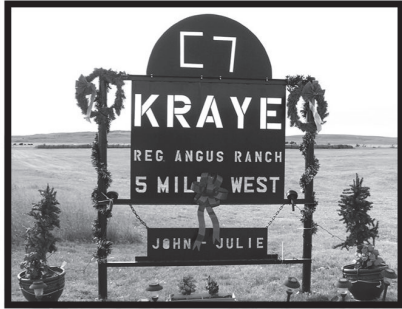
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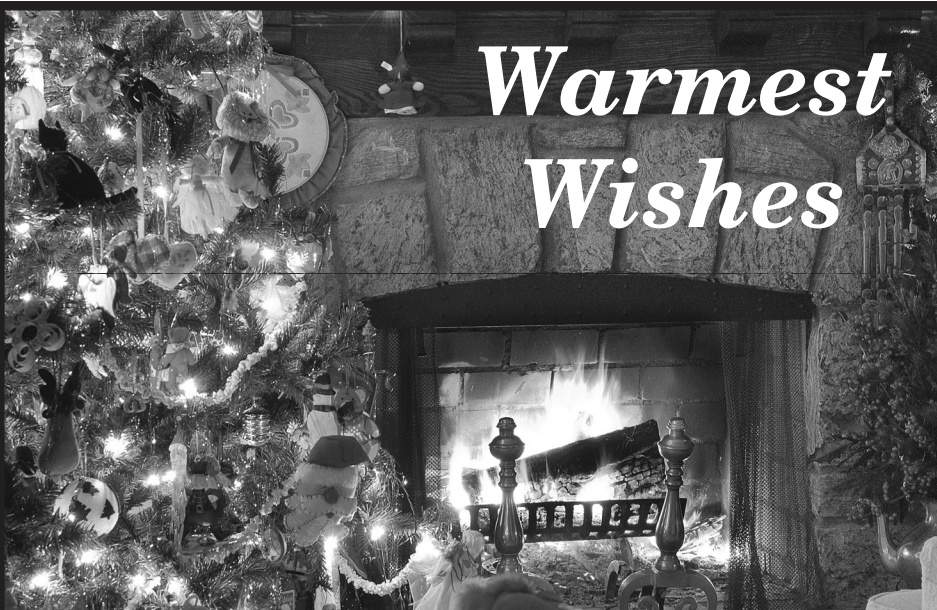
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Lauren Leetch
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5 Tips for Getting Kids Involved in Holiday Traditions

The holiday season is a magical time of year filled with cherished traditions that bring families together. And while gift-giving is one of the most beloved customs (especially for children), it can sometimes overshadow the true spirit of the season. Here are a few festive winter activities that focus on quality time together and spreading joy.

1. *Spread Joy with Kid-Created Cards.* According to a recent survey from AmericanGreetings.com, nearly 90% of Americans say that season's greetings bring them joy; and 92% say they specifically enjoy kids' homemade cards. This year, eliminate the stress of planning holiday cards—and teach kids about spreading cheer—with the Createcard app for iPad.

The easy-to-use app from American Greetings allows kids to create, color and customize cards using virtual tools, including markers, photo frames, stamps and stickers. Once complete, the greeting can be sent via email, text, or on social media. It's a simple, cost-effective and personalized way to teach them about bringing joy to others.

2. *Quality Time in the Kitchen.* Kids love sweet treats, so start involving them with baking and decorating traditional holiday goodies. In addition to being an excellent way to spend time together as a family, the tradition teaches them cooking basics, like reading recipes and measuring ingredients. Be sure to make it fun with plenty of frosting and sprinkles, or even add some competition with a decorating contest. You can also pair this activity with a cozy movie night or deliver treats to neighbors and family members to teach the importance of kindness and giving.

3. *Deck the Halls.* A perfect holiday tradition for

the whole family to get involved in is the Christmas tree. Whether it's a trip to pick out a real tree, or setting up an artificial one, you can make it an adventure from set-up to decoration. Plus, crafting homemade ornaments each year is the perfect kid contribution. Not only will they take pride in their creations, but each year will spark a bit of holiday nostalgia.

4. *Interactive Christmas Countdown.* According to a recent survey, what do 94% of Americans say increases the excitement of the holiday season? Advent calendars. But this year, skip the paper versions and get the whole family engaged with the interactive Jacquie Lawson Advent Calendar. The unique virtual calendar offers breathtaking illustrations of a fictional English country estate with exciting features unlocked daily in December. From a scavenger hunt to music, daily gifts, animated stories, books, games, creative activities, puzzles, and so much more, there, there's something for everyone to enjoy and look forward to each day of the season.

5. *Teach the Spirit of Giving.* While it can sometimes be easier to do the holiday shopping yourself, involving kids in gift-giving can teach them the thoughtfulness behind selecting meaningful gifts. If you have a large family, consider a Secret Santa where everyone shops for one specific family member. This is also a good opportunity to help kids make homemade gifts with more sentimental value. For an added lesson, explain how to follow a budget and count money when at the store.

By incorporating these tips into your holiday traditions, you will create lasting memories, instill valuable lessons and celebrate the joy of giving with your family.



What Christmas Means to Me

Christmas is my favorite holiday because I can spend time with my family in Ponca and my family in Tryon. In Ponca we make delicious food and we play card games. In Tryon my family is my brothers, my mom, my dad, my grandpa Mart, my grandma Cindy, my grandma Elaine, and my grandpa Russell. I like helping put up Christmas decorations and making Christmas food. I think the first meaning of Christmas is when Jesus was born, if we didn't have Jesus, people would probably be robbing banks and without Jesus the world would be horrible. For me Christmas means spending time with my family and knowing about Jesus.

By Ashlyn McNutt

What Christmas Means To Me

Christmas means to me that I get to celebrate Jesus's birthday.

Christmas means to me that I get to see family.

Christmas means to me that I get to decorate the house.

Christmas means to me that I get to have good food on the table.

Christmas means to me that I get to have a break from school.

Christmas means to me that I get to see my friends.

Christmas means to me that I get to relax.

By Hudsyn Gragg

What Christmas Means To Me

1. Christmas means a lot to me because it's a holiday where you get gifts and stuff.

2. Christmas is my favorite holiday besides my birthday because we get gifts and new stuff we like..

3. Christmas is also the month of the Lord's birthday.

4. Christmas's main hol-

iday person is Santa Claus.

5. Christmas is like the father of holidays to me.

6. Christmas is the holiday where Santa puts gifts in people's houses.

7. Christmas is the last main holiday of every year.

8. Christmas is a holiday in the winter.

9. Christmas is the holiday also of decorating and spending time with family.

The meaning of Christmas is love and spending time with family and friends.

By Archie McCoy Fisher

What Does Christmas Mean To Me

When it's Christmas I think about gifts but then I remember that is not what Christmas is about. Christmas is about our saviour Jesus Christ. Christmas is his birthday. So on Christmas I go to church. Also on Christmas I play with my cousins and go sledding and we eat a great big dinner. I play hide and seek and then we play twister and watch movies and play outside and play games and play pool. My favorite thing we do is take the family photo. I love to do that. On my Dad's side I hang with my cousins Hudsyn and Harper. I fight but play fight with Hudsyn and I dare with Harper. My uncle Calvin tickles me. I scream because I am ticklish. We play spoons and it gets intense. My family fights for the spoons, especially my Mom. She always wins and I always get out first. Then the parents get mini gifts like socks and put them under cups and we play rock paper scissors to see who goes first. You pick a cup and see what it is in it, sometimes it is money. So what Christmas means to me is the memories you make with your family.

Bentlie Ebmeier



Spending time with family is what Christmas means to me. My family and I get to set up decorations and lights. On Christmas day we open presents and eat Christmas breakfast. We celebrate the birth of Jesus. Before we go to bed we will eat popcorn and watch a movie. We play games and make grinch fruit punch. We will play with our new presents and play with our new puppy. Then we will train her until she's ready to go hunting. We will have a long Christmas break. We will go sledding and do snowball fights. Me and my brothers will make tunnels in the deep snow to our fort. My dad will make chili after we play outside so we are warm. I hope everyone has a good Christmas!

Landon Swim

Christmas is the day Jesus was born. But when I have Christmas I love being with my family. You may think opening presents is the best but not to me but....I still like the presents. I love decorating the tree. Of course I like to help my dad put up lights, it's hard but fun. But my favorite part is seeing my family and playing with cousins. Merry Christmas!

Avery Boeser

Having the excitement and curiosity to open presents. I am always excited to see what's inside. The night before, I always go to bed early because night goes by fast. I always wake up early and wake up my parents. This is what Christmas means to me.

Kolt Myers

Celebrating the birth of Jesus with my family is what Christmas means to

me. We go to church the Sunday before Christmas to watch the Christmas play.

Micah Weems

What Christmas means to me is celebrating the birth of Jesus with my family. I like throwing snowballs at my brothers and sister. I wake up my mom and dad to open presents, then we go to our grandma's house. When we get there we play for a little bit, then we eat supper and then open presents. My favorite part is when we go to church. After church we play cards and mess around.

Sean K. Weems

On Christmas morning my family always rushes out to the front room to see if Santa Clause came. That is not what Christmas means to me though. Christmas means celebration to me, because Christ was born on Christmas Day. Every year we make gingerbread houses and gingerbread families. We have to put them up high though, so that the dogs can't reach the gingerbread houses or the families!!!! What Christmas really means to me though is definitely spending time with my amazing, and awesome family.

Gabriella McEntee

Spending time with family is what Christmas means to me. I get to see all my family members near Christmas. I have home Christmas, Pyzer Christmas, and Tatman Christmas, which is my favorite. I don't get to see my dad very much on Christmas, because he

See Stapleton Fifth Grade Page B11

Merry CHRISTMAS

Carry Schacher

Veronica Neal

Mickie Florea

Lisa Kinderknecht

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MERRY CHRISTMAS from the **Gaffneys** Howard, Linda & Family

A Christmas Dream, and How It Came to Be True

By Louisa May Alcott

"I'm so tired of Christmas I wish there never would be another one!" exclaimed a discontented-looking little girl, as she sat idly watching her mother arrange a pile of gifts two days before they were to be given.

"Why, Effie, what a dreadful thing to say! You are as bad as old Scrooge; and I'm afraid something will happen to you, as it did to him, if you don't care for dear Christmas," answered mamma, almost dropping the silver horn she was filling with delicious candies.

"Who was Scrooge? What happened to him?" asked Effie, with a glimmer of interest in her listless face, as she picked out the sourest lemon-drop she could find; for nothing sweet suited her just then.

"He was one of Dickens's best people, and you can read the charming story some day. He hated Christmas until a strange dream showed him how dear and beautiful it was, and made a better man of

him."

"I shall read it; for I like dreams, and have a great many curious ones myself. But they don't keep me from being tired of Christmas," said Effie, poking discontentedly among the sweeties for something worth eating.

"Why are you tired of what should be the happiest time of all the year?" asked mamma, anxiously.

"Perhaps I shouldn't be if I had something new. But it is always the same, and there isn't any more surprise about it. I always find heaps of goodies in my stocking. Don't like some of them, and soon get tired of those I do like. We always have a great dinner, and I eat too much, and feel ill the next day. Then there is a Christmas tree somewhere, with a doll on top, or a stupid old Santa Claus, and children dancing and screaming over bonbons and toys that break, and shiny things that are of no use. Really, mamma, I've had so many Christmases all alike that I don't think I can bear another one."

And Effie laid herself flat on the sofa, as if the mere idea was too much for her.

Her mother laughed at her despair, but was sorry to see her little girl so discontented, when she had everything to make her happy, and had known but ten Christmas days.

"Suppose we don't give you any presents at all,—how would that suit you?" asked mamma, anxious to please her spoiled child.

"I should like one large and splendid one, and one dear little one, to remember some very nice person by," said Effie, who was a fanciful little body, full of odd whims and notions, which her friends loved to gratify, regardless of time, trouble, or money; for she was the last of three little girls, and very dear to all the family.

"Well, my darling, I will see what I can do to please you, and not say a word until all is ready. If I could only get a new idea to start with!" And mamma went on tying up her pretty bundles with a thoughtful face, while Effie strolled to the window to watch the rain that kept her indoors and made her dismal.

"Seems to me poor children have better times than rich ones. I can't go out, and there is a girl about my age splashing along, without any maid to fuss about rubbers and cloaks and umbrellas and colds. I wish I was a beggar-girl."

"Would you like to be hungry, cold, and ragged, to beg all day, and sleep on an ash-heap at night?" asked mamma, wondering what would come next.

"Cinderella did, and had a nice time in the end. This girl out here has a basket of scraps on her arm, and a big old shawl all round her, and doesn't seem to care a bit, though the water runs out of the toes of her boots. She goes paddling along, laughing at the rain, and eating a cold potato as if it tasted nicer than the chicken and ice-cream I had for dinner. Yes, I do think poor children are happier than rich ones."

"So do I, sometimes. At the Orphan Asylum today I saw two dozen merry little souls who have no parents, no home, and no hope of Christmas beyond a stick of candy or a cake. I wish you had been there to see how happy they were, playing with the old toys some richer children had sent them."

"You may give them all mine; I'm so tired of them I never want to see them again," said Effie, turning from the window to the pretty baby-house full of everything a child's heart could desire.

"I will, and let you begin again with something you will not tire of, if I can only find it." And mamma knit her brows trying to discover some grand surprise for this child who didn't care for Christmas.

Nothing more was said then; and wandering off to the library, Effie found "A Christmas Carol," and curling herself up in the sofa corner, read it all before tea. Some of it she did not understand; but she laughed and cried over many parts of the charming story, and felt better without knowing why.

All the evening she thought of poor Tiny Tim, Mrs. Cratchit with the pudding, and the stout old gentleman who danced so gayly that "his legs twinkled in the air." Presently bedtime arrived.

"Come, now, and toast your feet," said Effie's nurse, "while I do your pretty hair and tell stories." "I'll have a fairy tale to-night, a very interesting one," commanded Effie, as she put on her blue silk wrapper and little fur-lined slippers to sit before the fire and have her long curls brushed.

So Nurse told her best tales; and when at last the child lay down under her lace curtains, her head was full of a curious jumble of Christmas elves, poor children, snowstorms, sugarplums, and surprises. So it is no wonder that she dreamed all night; and this was the dream, which she never quite forgot.

She found herself sitting on a stone, in the middle of a great field, all alone. The snow was falling fast, a bitter wind whistled by, and night was coming on. She felt hungry, cold, and tired, and did not know where to go nor what to do.

"I wanted to be a beggar-girl, and now I am one; but I don't like it, and wish somebody would come and take care of me. I don't know who I am, and I think I must be lost," thought Effie, with the curious interest one takes in one's self in dreams. But the more she thought about it, the more bewildered she felt. Faster fell the snow, colder blew the wind, darker grew the night; and poor Effie made up her mind that she was quite forgotten and left to freeze alone. The tears were chilled on her cheeks, her feet felt like icicles, and her heart died within her, so hungry, frightened, and forlorn was she. Laying her head on her knees, she gave herself up for lost, and sat there with the great flakes fast turning her to a little white mound, when suddenly the sound



She actually stood in “a grove of Christmas trees.”

of music reached her, and starting up, she looked and listened with all her eyes and ears.

Far away a dim light shone, and a voice was heard singing. She tried to run toward the welcome glimmer, but could not stir, and stood like a small statue of expectation while the light drew nearer, and the sweet words of the song grew clearer.

From our happy home
Through the world we roam

One week in all the year,
Making winter spring
With the joy we bring,
For Christmas-tide is here.

Now the eastern star
Shines from afar
To light the poorest home;
Hearts warmer grow,
Gifts freely flow,
For Christmas-tide has come.

Now gay trees rise
Before young eyes,
Abloom with tempting cheer;
Blithe voices sing,
And blithe bells ring,
For Christmas-tide is here.

Oh, happy chime,
Oh, blessed time,
That draws us all so near!

"Welcome, dear day,"
All creatures say,
For Christmas-tide is here.

A child's voice sang, a

child's hand carried the little candle; and in the circle of soft light it shed, Effie saw a pretty child coming to her through the night and snow. A rosy, smiling creature, wrapped in white fur, with a wreath of green and scarlet holly on its shining hair, the magic candle in one hand, and the other outstretched as if to shower gifts and warmly press all other hands.

Effie forgot to speak as this bright vision came nearer, leaving no trace of footsteps in the snow, only lighting the way with its little candle, and filling the air with the music of its song.

"Dear child, you are lost, and I have come to find you," said the stranger, taking Effie's cold hands in his, with a smile like sunshine, while every holly berry glowed like a little fire.

"Do you know me?" asked Effie, feeling no fear, but a great gladness, at his coming.

"I know all children, and go to find them; for this is my holiday, and I gather them from all parts of the world to be merry with me once a year."

"Are you an angel?" asked Effie, looking for

See Christmas Dream
Page B6



**WISHING FRIENDS
LIKE YOU**
Light, Love & Laughter
Thank you for your kindness this past year!
Carol Burgess



**All the best
to you and yours!
We look forward
to seeing you in 2024.**
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for gratitude.....**
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*Kent, Shirley
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in the new year!**
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May the coming year
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Christmas Dream

the wings.

"No; I am a Christmas spirit, and live with my mates in a pleasant place, getting ready for our holiday, when we are let out to roam about the world, helping make this a happy time for all who will let us in. Will you come and see how we work?" "I will go anywhere with you. Don't leave me again," cried Effie, gladly.

"First I will make you comfortable. That is what we love to do. You are cold, and you shall be warm, hungry, and I will feed you; sorrowful, and I will make you gay."

With a wave of his candle all three miracles were wrought,—for the snow- flakes turned to a white fur cloak and hood on Effie's head and shoulders, a bowl of hot soup came sailing to her lips, and vanished when she had eagerly drunk the last drop; and suddenly the dismal field changed to a new world so full of wonders that all her troubles were forgotten in a minute. Bells were ringing so merrily that it was hard to keep from dancing. Green garlands hung on the walls, and every tree was a Christmas tree full of toys, and blazing with candles that never went out.

In one place many little spirits sewed like mad on warm clothes, turning off work faster than any sewing-machine ever invented, and great piles were made ready to be sent to poor people. Other busy creatures packed money into purses, and wrote checks which they sent flying away on the wind,—a lovely kind of snow-storm to fall into a world below full of poverty. Older and graver spirits were looking over piles of little books, in which the records of the past year were kept, telling how different people had spent it, and what sort of gifts

(Continued from page B5)

they deserved. Some got peace, some disappointment, some remorse and sorrow, some great joy and hope. The rich had generous thoughts sent them; the poor, gratitude and contentment. Children had more love and duty to parents; and parents renewed patience, wisdom, and satisfaction for and in their children. No one was forgotten.

"Please tell me what splendid place this is?" asked Effie, as soon as she could collect her wits after the first look at all these astonishing things.

"This is the Christmas world; and here we work all the year round, never tired of getting ready for the happy day. See, these are the saints just setting off; for some have far to go, and the children must not be disappointed."

As he spoke the spirit pointed to four gates, out of which four great sleighs were just driving, laden with toys, while a jolly old Santa Claus sat in the middle of each, drawing on his mittens and tucking up his wraps for a long cold drive.

"Why, I thought there was only one Santa Claus, and even he was a humbug," cried Effie, astonished at the sight. "Never give up your faith in the sweet old stones, even after you come to see that they are only the pleasant shadow of a lovely truth."

Just then the sleighs went off with a great jingling of bells and pattering of reindeer hoofs, while all the spirits gave a cheer that was heard in the lower world, where people said, "Hear the stars sing."

"I never will say there isn't any Santa Claus again. Now, show me more."

"You will like to see this place, I think, and may learn something here perhaps."

The spirit smiled as he led the way to a little door, through which Effie

peeped into a world of dolls. Baby-houses were in full blast, with dolls of all sorts going on like live people. Waxen ladies sat in their parlors elegantly dressed; black dolls cooked in the kitchens; nurses walked out with the bits of dollies; and the streets were full of tin soldiers marching, wooden horses prancing, express wagons rumbling, and little men hurrying to and fro. Shops were there, and tiny people buying legs of mutton, pounds of tea, mites of clothes, and everything dolls use or wear or want.

But presently she saw that in some ways the dolls improved upon the manners and customs of human beings, and she watched eagerly to learn why they did these things. A fine Paris doll driving in her carriage took up a black worsted Dinah who was hobbling along with a basket of clean clothes, and carried her to her journey's end, as if it were the proper thing to do. Another interesting china lady took off her comfortable red cloak and put it round a poor wooden creature done up in a paper shift, and so badly painted that its face would have sent some babies into fits.

"Seems to me I once knew a rich girl who didn't give her things to poor girls. I wish I could remember who she was, and tell her to be as kind as that china doll," said Effie, much touched at the sweet way the pretty creature wrapped up the poor fright, and then ran

off in her little gray gown to buy a shiny fowl stuck on a wooden platter for her invalid mother's dinner.

"We recall these things to people's minds by dreams. I think the girl you speak of won't forget this one." And the spirit smiled, as if he enjoyed some joke which she did not see.

A little bell rang as she looked, and away scampered the children into the red-and-green school-house with the roof that lifted up, so one could see how nicely they sat at their desks with mites of books, or drew on the inch-square blackboards with crumbs of chalk.

"They know their lessons very well, and are as still as mice. We make a great racket at our school, and get bad marks every day. I shall tell the girls they had better mind what they do, or their dolls will be better scholars than they are," said Effie, much impressed, as she peeped in and saw no rod in the hand of the little mistress, who looked up and shook her head at the intruder, as if begging her to go away before the order of the school was disturbed.

Effie retired at once, but could not resist one look in at the window of a fine mansion, where the family were at dinner, the children behaved so well at table, and never grumbled a bit when their mamma said they could not have any more fruit.

"Now, show me something else," she said, as they came again to the

low door that led out of Doll-land. "You have seen how we prepare for Christmas; let me show you where we love best to send our good and happy gifts," answered the spirit, giving her his hand again.

"I know. I've seen ever so many," began Effie, thinking of her own Christmases.

"No, you have never seen what I will show you. Come away, and remember what you see to-night."

Like a flash that bright world vanished, and Effie found herself in a part of the city she had never seen before. It was far away from the gayer places, where every store was brilliant with lights and full of pretty things, and every house wore a festival air, while people hurried to and fro with merry greetings. It was down among the dingy streets where the poor lived, and where there was no making ready for Christmas.

Hungry women looked in at the shabby shops, longing to buy meat and bread, but empty pockets forbade. Tipsy men drank up their wages in the bar-rooms; and in many cold dark chambers little children huddled under the thin blankets, trying to forget their misery in sleep.

No nice dinners filled the air with savory smells, no gay trees dropped toys and bonbons into eager hands, no little stockings hung in rows beside the chimney-piece ready to be filled, no happy sounds of music, gay voices, and dancing feet were heard; and there were no signs of Christmas anywhere.

"Don't they have any in this place?" asked Effie, shivering, as she held fast the spirit's hand, following where he led her. "We come to bring it. Let me

show you our best workers." And the spirit pointed to some sweet-faced men and women who came stealing into the poor houses, working such beautiful miracles that Effie could only stand and watch.

Some slipped money into the empty pockets, and sent the happy mothers to buy all the comforts they needed; others led the drunken men out of temptation, and took them home to find safer pleasures there. Fires were kindled on cold hearths, tables spread as if by magic, and warm clothes wrapped round shivering limbs. Flowers suddenly bloomed in the chambers of the sick; old people found themselves remembered; sad hearts were consoled by a tender word, and wicked ones softened by the story of Him who forgave all sin.

But the sweetest work was for the children; and Effie held her breath to watch these human fairies hang up and fill the little stockings without which a child's Christmas is not perfect, putting in things that once she would have thought very humble presents, but which now seemed beautiful and precious because these poor babies had nothing!

"That is so beautiful! I wish I could make merry Christmases as these good people do, and be loved and thanked as they are," said Effie, softly, as she watched the busy men and women do their work and steal away without thinking of any reward but their own satisfaction.

"You can if you will. I have shown you the way. Try it, and see how happy your own holiday will be

See Christmas Dream
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Christmas Dream

hereafter."

As he spoke, the spirit seemed to put his arms about her, and vanished with a kiss.

"Oh, stay and show me more!" cried Effie, trying to hold him fast.

"Darling, wake up, and tell me why you are smiling in your sleep," said a voice in her ear; and opening her eyes, there was mamma bending over her, and morning sunshine streaming into the room.

"Are they all gone? Did you hear the bells? Wasn't it splendid?" she asked, rubbing her eyes, and looking about her for the pretty child who was so real and sweet.

"You have been dreaming at a great rate,talking in your sleep, laughing, and clapping your hands as if you were cheering someone. Tell me what was so splendid," said mamma, smoothing the tumbled hair and lifting up the sleepy head. Then, while she was being dressed, Effie told her dream, and Nursey thought it very wonderful; but mamma smiled to see how curiously things the child had thought, read, heard, and seen through the day were mixed up in her sleep.

"The spirit said I could work lovely miracles if I tried; but I don't know how to begin, for I have no magic candle to make feasts appear, and light up groves of Christmas trees, as he did," said Effie, sorrowfully.

"Yes, you have. We will do it! we will do it!" And clapping her hands, mamma suddenly began to dance all over the room as if she had lost her wits.

"How? how? You must tell me, mamma," cried

(Continued from page B6)

Effie, dancing after her, and ready to believe anything possible when she remembered the adventures of the past night.

"I've got it! I've got it!-the new idea. A splendid one, if I can only carry it out!" And mamma waltzed the little girl round till her curls flew wildly in the air, while Nursey laughed as if she would die.

"Tell me! tell me!" shrieked Effie. "No, no; it is a surprise,-a grand surprise for Christmas day!" sung mamma, evidently charmed with her happy thought. "Now, come to breakfast; for we must work like bees if we want to play spirits tomorrow. You and Nursey will go out shopping, and get heaps of things, while I arrange matters behind the scenes."

They were running downstairs as mamma spoke, and Effie called out breathlessly,-

"It won't be a surprise; for I know you are going to ask some poor children here, and have a tree or something. It won't be like my dream; for they had ever so many trees, and more children than we can find anywhere."

"There will be no tree, no party, no dinner, in this house at all, and no presents for you. Won't that be a surprise?" And mamma laughed at Effie's bewildered face.

"Do it. I shall like it, I think; and I won't ask any questions, so it will all burst upon me when the time comes," she said; and she ate her breakfast thoughtfully, for this really would be a new sort of Christmas.

All that morning Effie trotted after Nursey in and out of shops, buying dozens of barking dogs, woolly lambs, and

squeaking birds; tiny tea-sets, gay picture-books, mittens and hoods, dolls and candy. Parcel after parcel was sent home; but when Effie returned she saw no trace of them, though she peeped everywhere. Nursey chuckled, but wouldn't give a hint, and went out again in the afternoon with a long list of more things to buy; while Effie wandered forlornly about the house, missing the usual merry stir that went before the Christmas dinner and the evening fun.

As for mamma, she was quite invisible all day, and came in at night so tired that she could only lie on the sofa to rest, smiling as if some very pleasant thought made her happy in spite of weariness.

"Is the surprise going on all right?" asked Effie, anxiously; for it seemed an immense time to wait till another evening came.

"Beautifully! better than I expected; for several of my good friends are helping, or I couldn't have done it as I wish. I know you will like it, dear, and long remember this new way of making Christmas merry."

Mamma gave her a very tender kiss, and Effie went to bed.

The next day was a very strange one; for when she woke there was no stocking to examine, no pile of gifts under her napkin, no one said "Merry Christmas!" to her, and the dinner was just as usual to her. Mamma vanished again, and Nursey kept wiping her eyes and saying: "The dear things! It's the prettiest idea I ever heard of. No one but your blessed ma could have done it." "Do stop, Nursey, or I shall go crazy because I don't know the

secret!" cried Effie, more than once; and she kept her eye on the clock, for at seven in the evening the surprise was to come off.

The longed-for hour arrived at last, and the child was too excited to ask questions when Nursey put on her cloak and hood, led her to the carriage, and they drove away, leaving their house the one dark and silent one in the row. "I feel like the girls in the fairy tales who are led off to strange places and see fine things," said Effie, in a whisper, as they jingled through the gay streets.

"Ah, my deary, it is like a fairy tale, I do assure you, and you will see finer things than most children will tonight. Steady, now, and do just as I tell you, and don't say one word whatever you see," answered Nursey, quite quivering with excitement as she patted a large box in her lap, and nodded and laughed with twinkling eyes.

They drove into a dark yard, and Effie was led through a back door to a little room, where Nursey coolly proceeded to take off not only her cloak and hood, but her dress and shoes also. Effie stared and bit her lips, but kept still until out of the box came a little white fur coat and boots, a wreath of holly leaves and berries, and a candle with a frill of gold paper round it. A long "Oh!" escaped her then; and when she was dressed and saw herself in the glass, she started back, exclaiming, "Why, Nursey, I look like the spirit in my dream!"

"So you do; and that's the part you are to play, my pretty! Now whist, while I blind your eyes and put you in your place."

"Shall I be afraid?" whispered Effie, full of wonder; for as they went out she heard the sound of many voices, the tramp of many feet, and, in spite of the bandage, was sure a great light shone upon her when she stopped.

"You needn't be; I shall stand close by, and your ma will be there."

After the handkerchief was tied about her eyes, Nurse led Effie up some steps, and placed her on a high platform, where something like leaves touched her head, and the soft snap of lamps seemed to fill the air. Music began as soon as Nurse clapped her hands, the voices outside sounded nearer, and the tramp was evidently coming up the stairs.

"Now, my precious, look and see how you and your dear ma have made a merry Christmas for them that needed it!"

Off went the bandage; and for a minute Effie really did think she was asleep again, for she actually stood in "a grove of Christmas trees," all gay and shining as in her vision. Twelve on a side, in two rows down the room, stood the little pines, each on its low table; and behind Effie a taller one rose to the roof, hung with wreaths of popcorn, apples, oranges, horns of candy, and cakes of all sorts, from sugary hearts to gingerbread Jumbos. On the smaller trees she saw many of her own discarded toys and those Nursey bought, as well as heaps that seemed to have rained down straight from that delightful Christmas country where she felt as if she was again.

"How splendid! Who is it for? What is that noise? Where is mamma?" cried Effie, pale with pleasure and surprise, as she stood looking down the brilliant little street from her high place.

Before Nursey could answer, the doors at the lower end flew open, and in marched twenty-four little blue-gowned orphan girls, singing sweetly, until amazement changed the song to cries of joy and wonder as the shining spectacle appeared. While they stood staring with round eyes at the wilderness of pretty things about them, mamma stepped up be-

side Effie, and holding her hand fast to give her courage, told the story of the dream in a few simple words, ending in this way:-

"So my little girl wanted to be a Christmas spirit too, and make this a happy day for those who had not as many pleasures and comforts as she has. She likes surprises, and we planned this for you all. She shall play the good fairy, and give each of you something from this tree, after which every one will find her own name on a small tree, and can go to enjoy it in her own way. March by, my dears, and let us fill your hands."

Nobody told them to do it, but all the hands were clapped heartily before a single child stirred; then one by one they came to look up wonderingly at the pretty giver of the feast as she leaned down to offer them great yellow oranges, red apples, bunches of grapes, bonbons, and cakes, till all were gone, and a double row of smiling faces turned toward her as the children filed back to their places in the orderly way they had been taught.

Then each was led to her own tree by the good ladies who had helped mamma with all their hearts; and the happy hubbub that arose would have satisfied even Santa Claus himself, shrieks of joy, dances of delight, laughter and tears (for some tender little things could not bear so much pleasure at once, and sobbed with mouths full of candy and hands full of toys). How they ran to show one another the new treasures! how they peeped and tasted, pulled and pinched, until the air was full of queer noises,

the floor covered with papers, and the little trees left bare of all but candles!

"I don't think heaven can be any gooder than this," sighed one small girl, as she looked about her in a blissful maze, holding her full apron with one hand, while she luxuriously carried sugar-plums to her mouth with the other.

"Is that a truly angel up there?" asked another, fascinated by the little white figure with the wreath on its shining hair, who in some mysterious way had been the cause of all this merry-making.

"I wish I dared to go and kiss her for this splendid party," said a lame child, leaning on her crutch, as she stood near the steps, wondering how it seemed to sit in a mother's lap, as Effie was doing, while she watched the happy scene before her. Effie heard her, and remembering Tiny Tim, ran down and put her arms about the pale child, kissing the wistful face, as she said sweetly, "You may; but mamma deserves the thanks. She did it all; I only dreamed about it."

Lame Katy felt as if "a truly angel" was embracing her, and could only stammer out her thanks, while the other children ran to see the pretty spirit, and touch her soft dress, until she stood in a crowd of blue gowns laughing as they held up their gifts for her to see and admire.

Mamma leaned down and whispered one word to the older girls; and suddenly they all took hands to dance round Effie, singing as they

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May we always count our blessings as there is so much to be grateful for.

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Coping with loneliness during the Holidays

You're not alone if you are expecting, preparing, or even dreading the thought of experiencing loneliness during the holidays. Many people spend the holidays alone. Whether you are alone by choice or unforeseen circumstances, it is natural to feel a sense of loneliness.

It's OK to feel lonely. Loneliness can help you gain insight into what you need at a particular moment. What's important is that you don't let feelings of loneliness led to unhealthy coping mechanisms. Keep the present in perspective. New traditions, even those you partake in alone, can be just as fulfilling as fondly remembered old ones.

The tips below can help you cope with loneliness during the holidays. If you're feeling overwhelmed by emotions and need mental health support, we can help.

1. *Do things that bring you joy.* Give yourself permission to seek out moments of pleasure. Focus on the things you really enjoy. This could be a favorite hobby, reading a good book, taking a relaxing bath, going to a movie, eating a delicious meal, or learning something new. Doing something for yourself is a form of self-care. Consider creating a holiday season bucket list of things you want to do. Make cookies. Take a holiday light tour. Go for a sleigh ride.
2. *Reframe your expectations.* Social media, TV shows, movies and commercials present the expectation that the holidays are about being surrounded by family, feeling bright and jolly, full of mirth and joy. It's easy to feel as though you're not measuring up. Looking at the holiday season from a different angle may help you re-

move the emotional pressure. Reassess your expectations for how the season will go instead of how others say it should go. Decide for yourself what a particular holiday is about. If you're going through a difficult time, you could see the holidays as a time to take care of yourself and heal.

3. *Share your time.* Volunteering is a proven buffer against stress and depressive symptoms. Sharing your time with others can be particularly effective in decreasing feelings of isolation. When we focus on helping others it helps us feel better about ourselves. You might donate your time at a local animal or homeless shelter, donate clothing you no longer use, or send someone a card. Even performing small acts of kindness, like giving someone a compliment, paying for a stranger's coffee, offering to pick up groceries for a

neighbor, or chatting with someone you haven't seen in a while can go a long way towards making both you and them feel more connected.

If you would like more information, education, or would like to discuss support this holiday season, please reach out to your provider or a member of our team. Your provider or we will provide you with ideas and support to keep you healthy and safe this holiday season.

Callaway District Hospital's, Senior Life Solutions mental health program, is designed to meet the unique needs of older adults experiencing depression and/or anxiety related to life changes that are often associated with aging. If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health challenge and would like to discuss support, please call #508-836-2153 or visit www.callawayhospital.org

Holiday Help From The Poison Center

Season's greetings from the Nebraska Poison Center! A friendly reminder that the holidays bring changes in routine and increase the risk of accidental exposure to poisons in the home. The Nebraska Poison Center would like to offer a few helpful holiday hints:

Toys may contain button or disc batteries. If swallowed, they can become stuck and cause serious injury or death if not removed. They may come in games, watches, remotes, and musical greeting cards.

Other toys are brightly colored and fun to play with such as water beads or rare earth magnets, but they are not suitable for persons that may ingest these items. Strong magnets can stick together in the intestines and become a medical emergency. If water beads are swallowed, they may swell and cause a blockage in the intestines.

Alcoholic beverages are more readily accessible during gatherings. Clean immediately after gatherings and remove all items that may contain alcohol.

Nicotine containing products include cigarettes, vape liquid, and chewing tobacco and are harmful if ingested. These products may cause shakiness, vomiting or seizures.

CBD and THC products are often in brightly colored packaging that can

easily be mistaken for candy or other food items for children. Keep these away from common areas, locked away and out of reach.

Cleaning products should also be stored up and out of sight. Do not mix chemicals together when cleaning, and follow all label directions for using these products.

Encourage visiting friends and family to store medications up, out of sight and locked up tight, not out on a nightstand or counter. Keep all purses and bags secured and locked away.

Keep small children and animals away from seasonal plants such as mistletoe, holly berries, yew plants and poinsettias.

The holiday season can bring joy and grief simultaneously. As seasonal calls to the Poison Center increase, so do calls about intentional harm. If you or a loved one is having thoughts of self-harm or in a crisis, remember you are not alone. Please call 988, it is a 24/7 National Suicide and Crisis Line for help.

Prevention is the best treatment for poisonings. Poison Center staff are specially trained in poison information and available 24/7/365. If you have questions or have had an exposure, call 1-800-222-1222. The Poison Center is a free and confidential service to the public.

Doctor Shares Tips to Stay Healthy During the Holiday Season

The holiday season is a joyous time to reconnect with family and loved ones, but it also brings unique health and safety risks, according to doctors, who recommend a bit of extra vigilance to protect yourself and those close to you.

"During the hectic holiday season, it can be hard to carve out time to focus on your wellness. Awareness, along with the adoption of a few healthy habits, can help you and your family enjoy this special time of year in the best of health," says American Medical Association (AMA) president, Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, M.D., M.P.H.

For a healthy, happy season, follow these tips and recommendations from the AMA:

1. Vaccination is the best

- protection against a number of serious respiratory viruses circulating this fall and winter. To protect yourself and your family, get up to date on your vaccines, including the annual flu shot. Vaccines are also available to protect older adults from severe RSV. New tools to protect infants during RSV season include maternal vaccination as well as the monoclonal antibody immunization.
- If you have questions, speak with your physician and review trusted resources, including getvaccineanswers.org.
2. Watch what you eat this holiday season. Pay particular attention to labels and avoid processed foods as much as you can, especially those with added sodium and sugar. Drink water instead of
- sugar-sweetened beverages, and eat nutritious, whole foods like fresh fruits and vegetables alongside richer holiday fare.
3. If you're consuming alcohol, drink only in moderation. The U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans defines that as up to one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men, and only by adults of legal drinking age.
4. Make time to exercise during this busy time of year. A good rule of thumb for adults is at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity. Brisk walks, or even a family trip to the gym, can provide easy and fun ways to get off the couch and elevate your heart rate over the holiday season. If you're traveling, don't forget to pack your sneakers!
5. Factors like holiday spending and navigating time with extended family can bring on extra seasonal stress. Invest in your mental health and manage stress by getting sufficient sleep, exercising and seeking help from a mental health professional when you need it.
6. Make smart choices and plan ahead if you're driving. In December 2021 alone, 1,013 Americans died in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes. Do not under any circumstances drive if you intend to drink. And if you are the designated driver, make a 100% commitment to sobriety.
7. Get your New Year's resolutions started early. Speak with your doctor or health care professional about quitting to-

bacco and nicotine use, and declare your home and car smoke-free to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure.

"Amid the holiday cheer, don't neglect your health and safety. By eating well, exercising, and taking necessary steps to stop the spread of respiratory viruses, you can help protect yourself against common seasonal health risks," say Dr. Ehrenfeld.

You can watch Santa's progress on his Christmas Eve Deliveries at: www.santaupdate.com



Merry Christmas!

Wishing you all the joy and wonder of this special time of year.

J.R. Trumbull

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Season Affective Disorder: Take Proactive Steps

As temperatures drop and daylight hours shorten, many individuals experience what is commonly known as Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD. This seasonal phenomenon can have a significant impact on mental health and well-being, leading to feelings of low energy, mood swings, and depression. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) emphasizes that it is crucial to prioritize mental health and encourages Nebraskans to seek the support they might need during this challenging time.

“The changing of the seasons can be a difficult time for a lot of folks but it is important to remember that there is hope and help is available,” said Tony Green, Interim Director of the DHHS Division of Behavioral Health. “Every Nebraskan deserves to feel supported. I would like to emphasize the value of seeking support from a mental health professional or a trained crisis counselor by calling, texting, or chatting 988.”

Symptoms of SAD may include:

Persistent sad, anxious, or “empty” mood most of the day, nearly every day, for at least two weeks.

Feelings of hopelessness, irritability, frustration, or restlessness.

Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, or helplessness.

Loss of interest or pleasure in hobbies and activities.

Social withdrawal.

Decreased energy, fatigue, or feeling slowed down.

Difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions.

Changes in sleep, appetite, or unplanned weight changes.

Physical aches or pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive problems.

Thoughts of death, or suicide.

SAD is often linked to a lack of sunlight exposure, which disrupts our body's natural rhythms and affects serotonin levels. To combat this, consider these proactive steps to boost your mood and support your mental health during this time.

Engage in Regular Physical Activity: Exercise releases endorphins and helps alleviate symptoms of depression. Make an effort to incorporate physical activity into your daily routine, whether it's going for a brisk walk, trying out a new workout class, or practicing yoga.

Prioritize Self-Care: Set aside time for activities that bring you joy and relaxation. Whether it's reading a book, taking a warm bath, or indulging in a hobby, self-care is essential for maintaining mental well-being.

Seek Social Support: Stay connected with loved ones and friends. Reach out to them regularly for in-person or virtual hangouts, phone calls, or even outdoor activities. Connecting with others can help combat feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Get Sufficient Sleep: Adequate rest is crucial for mental and physical health. Establish a consistent sleep routine and create a relaxing sleep environment to ensure you get the rest you need.

Consider Light Therapy: Light therapy devices, such as lightboxes, can mimic natural sunlight and help regulate mood. Consult a healthcare professional to determine if light therapy is suitable

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Comstock transforms into ‘Christmas City’ for 2023 holiday



Grinchville neighborhood is just one of the many displays lit in Comstock

The Village of Comstock will again convert to a “Comstock Christmas City” - with a mile of twinkling lights and over 400 holiday inflatables beginning the day after Thanksgiving (November 24) through New Year's Day, January 1, 2023.

It started seven years ago, when an inflatable Santa and Reindeer showed up anonymously on Henry Nuxoll's doorstep, which led to other generous donations of over \$3,000 worth of Christmas decorations over the next 30 days. Nuxoll began displaying the decorations in Comstock, and hoped it brought joy to anyone who saw them.

Fast-forward to “Christmas City” now, with 20 connecting blocks of Christmas displays; dozens of decorated cars, boats, campers, buggys, sled and horse drawn equipment; 12 buildings; 20 trees; 50 Santas, and a mile of Christmas lights. The village included 40

“neighborhoods,” including Grinchville, Bed Rock, Snowman's Land, Teddy Bear Boulevard and Comstock Police.

New for 2023: A bike Exchange by Teddy Bear Boulevard, started for kids that want or need a bicycle. If you need a bike, take one. If you have a bike, leave it for someone who needs one. No cost for the bicycles. The Bike Exchange is starting out with 20 available bikes. Also new this year, the ‘Saddle Up Saloon’ a soon-to-open business in Comstock, will offer FREE hot Chocolate and Cider every night the lights are on, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., to promote this highly anticipated saloon.

“Comstock Christmas City” will be lit daily - November 24 through New Year's Day - from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. It is free admission and takes about 30 minutes to drive through, and an hour to walk the displays. For more information call 308-370-1023, in case of inclement or too windy conditions that might limit visibility.

In This Season Of Caring



We're dispensing a large measure of good cheer along with our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season and 2024 to all our neighbors.

We appreciate your trust and we thank you for choosing us.

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Pharmacist: Drew Smith

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& Happy New Year!**

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Merry Christmas

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Merry Christmas



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we restore
them all

It's that time of year when we pause to thank our many good friends for their help this past year. May you have a special holiday season and many blessings in the new year!

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Merry Christmas!



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Guest Editorial

By Glenn Mollette

Our Ever-Changing Christmas Story

Christmas is always changing. The biblical story never changes but your story is always changing. How we celebrate and view the story of Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus may change throughout life. We view the story one way as children but then the story matures as we age.

We all have a lot of Christmas stories. I remember a large family.



My mother came from a large family as did my dad. They all had chil-

dren so the total number of family we felt connected to was great. The years have passed by and my mother and father have passed as have all their siblings and many of their children. The people we related to, heard from and spent Christmas with has changed. They no longer exist. Many of us have lost spouses and buried children and thus our Christmas has changed.

The story of Christmas is the same but it's not the same. For some of us we have a difficult time even recognizing Christmas. What once brought us laughter, joy and even peace may no longer exist.

How you spend Christ-

mas this year may be a distant memory next year. What you may dread or enjoy this Christmas may not even be possible next year.

In reality, very few of our Christmases ever look totally the same. Finances change. Jobs change. Health changes. Death robs us of loved ones. Our residences sometimes change.

Mary and Joseph certainly never celebrated Christmas ever again the way they celebrated their first one. The birth of Jesus in a stable and placed in a manger will always stand out as the Christmas we will remember about that family. Hopefully they had a few easier Birthday celebrations for Jesus in the years ahead. Although it seems they may have had many more difficult ones as Jesus' father Joseph

soon disappeared from the Biblical narrative. We don't know if Joseph died or left but his absence had to be a hardship on Mary and her family.

The story of the first family of Christmas was filled with ups and downs. What Jesus would face later in life was excruciating for his mother and siblings and certainly for him. The end of Jesus' life story is the best part. The story for Jesus ends well. He was abused, humiliated, lived-in poverty, executed but came out of his tomb as the living son of God. According to the scriptures he was seen by hundreds of people. The person who had to be more thrilled than all in seeing Jesus after his death had to be his mother. The way she would experience and celebrate Christmas, her son's birthday, would forever be changed. Her Christmas story became an amazing story of victory, triumph and great hope. Her story changed and it got better.

My prayer for us all is that we each will experience hope, peace and victory in our ever-changing Christmas story.



WISH YOU A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Big Springs Insurance Agency

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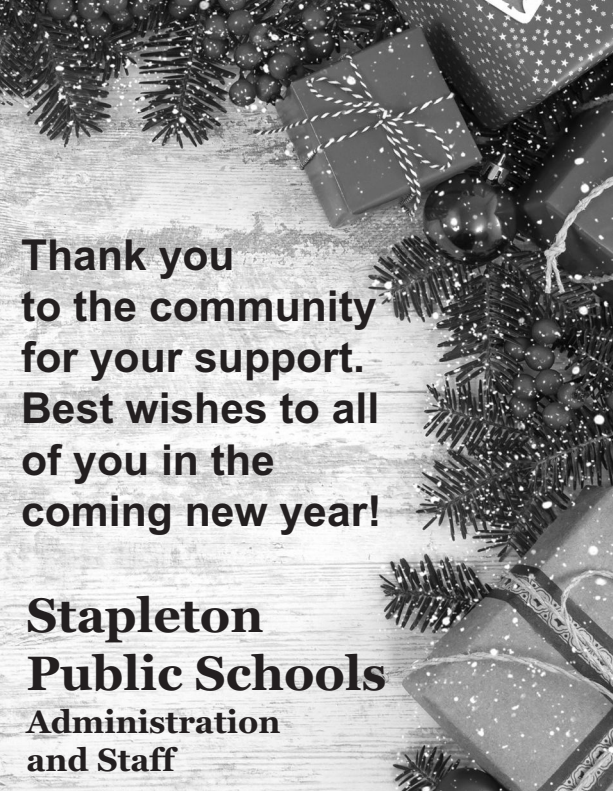


Bring On the Joy

Thanks for brightening up our year. Best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous new year.

MJK, CPA P.C. Offices In Stapleton & Arnold

Milissa J. Kramer, Certified Public Accountant



Thank you to the community for your support. Best wishes to all of you in the coming new year!

Stapleton Public Schools Administration and Staff

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Merry Christmas

Thanks for making our year a great one!

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The Johnstons • Stapleton



Merry Christmas

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Gaites Hay Co.

STAPLETON

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Season's greetings to our neighbors, friends and patients in the area. Your support and trust mean the world to us. Merry Christmas!

Callaway District Hospital

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Merry Christmas!

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Christmas Price Index Through The Years

The good old days – when a gallon of gas was only \$1.13 and a performance by 10 leaping lords could be purchased for just more than \$2,900. The year was 1984 and those Lords-a-Leaping, along with the other 11 gifts from the popular holiday carol, “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” were making their debut in the inaugural PNC Christmas Price Index (CPI).

Dating back to the late 1700s, the carol’s early verses deviate very little from the version of the song known today.

Though one factor has changed dramatically: the price tag for True Love’s annual holiday shopping binge.

For 40 years, PNC Bank has been calculating what it would cost to buy all the gifts in the song as part of the CPI. The first CPI was created by a PNC predecessor bank as a whimsical holiday feature for a weekly business newsletter. Then, as now, the index was intended as a lighthearted comparison to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Consumer Price Index. Over the years, the index has

risen and fallen with the economy and consumer sentiment. When it launched, the total cost to buy all 12 gifts was \$20,023.57. In 2023, that cost has ballooned to \$46,729.86.

How it’s calculated

Rebekah McCahan, a vice president with PNC’s investment strategy team, has been responsible for calculating the CPI for 38 of its 40 years. She uses a variety of sources, including national bird suppliers, a hatchery and waterfowl farm, and a national pet store chain. A nursery provides the pear tree price; a jeweler assists with the five gold rings; and a Philadelphia-based dance company provides the price of the ladies dancing.

As to be expected, there have been several interesting data points throughout the years:

- \$4.14 - The price difference of the Seven Swans-a-Swimming since 1984. Every gift in the index has risen in price, but one of the most expensive is also the least changed. The swans debuted at \$13,120.86 in 1984 and are priced at \$13,125 in 2023.
- \$2,400 - Dollar for dollar, the four entertainment industry gifts (Ladies, Lords, Pipers and Drummers) have seen the biggest price increases and are most responsible for the CPI’s growth over the years. Each of these gifts has grown by at least

\$2,400 from their debut in 1984.

- 8 – The number of times the Four Calling Birds have changed prices in the history of the index. Ever a model of consistency, the birds pricing remained the same for 17 years before their first modest increase. They last experienced an increase in 2013.
- 233% – The percentage price increase of the Three French Hens in 2010 – the largest one-year percentage increase for a single gift in the index’s history. They jumped from \$45 in 2009 to \$150 the following year.
- 2003 – The year the CPI experienced its biggest jump in total price. The index grew by 18.4% that year due to significant price increases for the calling birds, swans, pipers and drummers.
- 2020 - The year of the single biggest percentage drop in the index (58.5%), and the lowest overall price of the index (only \$16,168.14). The 2020 CPI did not include any of the entertainment-related gifts, due to pandemic restrictions on in-person performances.

More than just numbers.

“I never imagined the CPI would have had the staying power that it has proven over the years,” McCahan said. “I don’t know what the next 40 years will bring, but I do know this is something I have enjoyed being part of.”

my family and making cards with my cousins. I just like spending time with my family.

Kuyn Kramer

I really like Christmas. I get to see family and hear my uncle’s corny dad jokes. The best thing is that I get to see my aunt’s dog, she is just so cute! I really like seeing my cousins!

Jensen Kulp-Naber

I like Christmas because it is time that I get to spend time with my family! Christmas is fun and exciting. My favorite thing about Christmas is when we decorate the Christmas tree and play in the snow (if any). I look forward to seeing my family at Christmas all year. Christmas means time to have fun with my family!

Rikie Schaeffer

Christmas is a time to give, a time to be joyful, a time to gather with family. Every Christmas

morning mom, dad and I open all the presents from each other and any other family members who could not make it, we always try to send something to them. After we open presents at home we go to grandma and grandpa’s house. We eat lunch and open all the presents. Then we eat dessert, it’s always the best. The night before Christmas we visit to mom’s side of the family who lives out of town. This year we did something different, we drew names for gifts. Christmas is also about the birth of the savior named Jesus, the savior of my sins. This is what Christmas means to me.

Jace Scott

Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone!

May your home be filled with the love and light that came into our dark world so long ago.



Thank you to my customers and friends who are so special!

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Here Comes Christmas



We hope your holiday shines bright this year. Thank you for your patronage in 2023. We look forward to serving you in the new year!

Starr Trenching, LLC
Kevin & RaLynn & Family

Stapleton Fifth Grade
(Continued from page B4) works holidays at the railroad. That’s what Christmas means to me.

Dalton Tatman

Spending time with family is what Christmas means to me. Christmas is one of the only times of the year I definitely get to see my family. So I cherish the time I spend with my family. When I spend time with family I can learn things I didn’t know. That’s what Christmas means to me.

Baily Weems

What Christmas means to me is spending time with my family. I like snow, it is pretty.

Lilith Berg

What Christmas means to me is playing with my cousins. I like eating grandma’s oreo pie. What Christmas also means to me is celebrating the day Jesus was born, and spending time with my family. Setting the Christmas tree up with my cousins. At Christmas at my grandma’s house I like making books with

Oh come let us adore Him....



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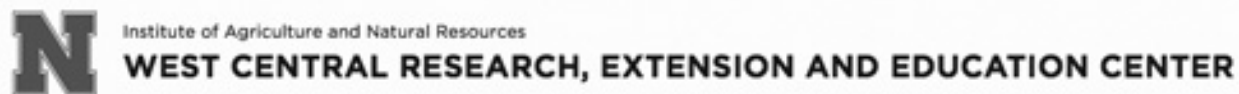


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Charcuterie Boards and Food Safety

Charcuterie boards are extremely popular. A charcuterie board is an assortment of meats, cheeses, nuts, breads, olives, fruits, dips, and spreads - arranged on a cutting board or tray. It is important to make sure that you are following good food safety practices when preparing and serving charcuterie boards and other party trays such as butter, cream cheese, and dessert boards. Here are tips:

should not be kept at room temperature for more than 2 hours total (one hour if the temperature is above 90 °F).

Use clean serving utensils, spoons for dips, tongs, or toothpicks to keep guests from contaminating the entire board. Each serving dish needs a separate utensil.

If you want individual portions, try a charcuterie board in a jelly jar or other small container.

Keep dips and items

and cheeses in the refrigerator ready to go when the board needs restocking.

Charcuterie meats and cheeses have the most flavor when served at room temperature. Remember these should not be left out at room temperature for more than two hours total.

Consider using a designated cutting board for charcuterie use, and not one you use to cut up raw protein foods. All plastic and wooden cutting boards wear out over time. Once cutting boards become excessively worn or develop hard-to-clean grooves, they should be discarded.

Butter Boards or Cream Cheese Boards:
It is recommended that a plastic cutting board is used instead of a wooden one as they are easier to clean and sanitize. Ceramic plates and decorative containers work well also.

A wooden cutting board can be used if the butter or cream cheese are in containers.

Christmas Dream

(Continued from page B7)

skipped.

It was a pretty sight, and the ladies found it hard to break up the happy revel; but it was late for small people, and too much fun is a mistake. So the girls fell into line, and marched before Effie and mamma again, to say goodnight with such grateful little faces that the eyes of those who looked grew dim with tears. Mamma kissed every one; and many a hungry childish heart felt as if the touch of those tender lips was their best gift. Effie shook so many small hands that her own tingled; and when Katy came she pressed a small doll into Effie's hand, whispering, "You didn't have a single present, and we had lots. Do keep that; it's the prettiest thing I got."

"I will," answered Effie, and held it fast until the last smiling face was gone, the surprise all over, and she safe in her own bed, too tired and happy for anything but sleep.

"Mamma, it was a beautiful surprise, and I thank you so much! I don't see how you did it; but I like it best of all the Christmases I ever had, and mean to make one every year. I had my splendid big present, and here is the dear little one to keep for love of poor Katy; so even that part of my wish came true."

And Effie fell asleep with a happy smile on her lips, her one humble gift still in her hand, and a new love for Christmas in her heart that never changed through a long life spent in doing good.

cheese in them discourages double dipping in someone else's food.

It is a best practice to use a small cutting board and replenish when needed or swap out for another board. Refrigerated foods should not be left out for more than two hours.

These boards are not recommended for those susceptible to food borne illness, including the elderly, the very young, pregnant, or immunocompromised.

Once the board has set out and been used, leftovers need to be refrigerated or thrown away.

Dessert Boards:
When using items like pie, dips, cheesecakes, and other potentially hazardous items that require refrigeration, keep them cold until used, then put out in small amounts so the items do not sit out for more than two hours.

*See Food Safety
Page B13*

Stapleton Second Grade (Continued from page B2)

Candycane. Santa left me a note. I was so surprised. It had a little heart charm. It was my favorite stuffie. I took it to school that day. It was the cutest stuffie ever. I really liked it. It also had cute little horns. It was the best birthday ever.

By Callie Florea

My favorite Christmas memory was when I went to my grandparents' house. First, we gave Santa milk and baked cookies. Next, we opened presents. I played with my cousins. Then we flew kids in the air. Then we went downstairs and played hide-and-seek. We wrestled downstairs. We had a lot of fun playing downstairs. I spent a lot of time with my family. That was my favorite Christmas memory.

By Tate Boeser

My favorite Christmas memory was going to Estes Park. We counted down days until we went to Estes Park, Colorado. We opened Christmas presents there. I got Legos. We drove around town. We got taffy and

big cookies. We went jeeping. We ate at a Mexican restaurant. That was my favorite Christmas memory.

By Coye Weems

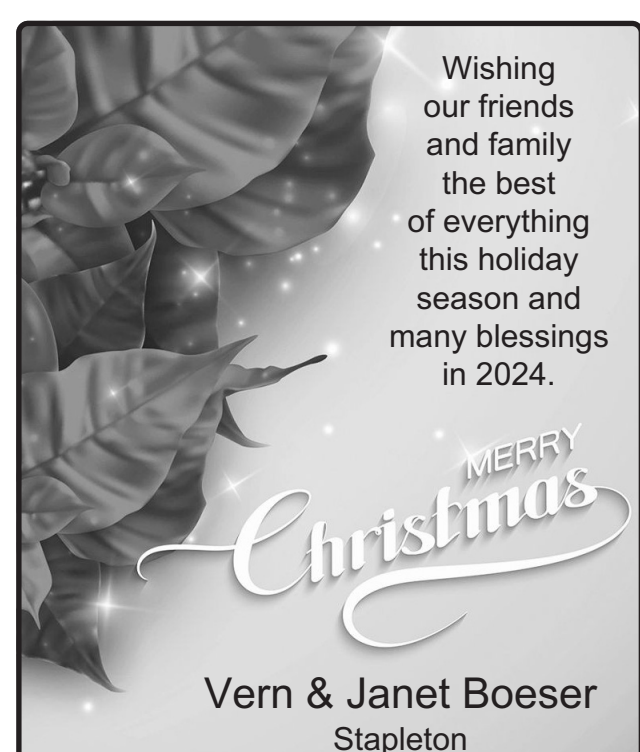
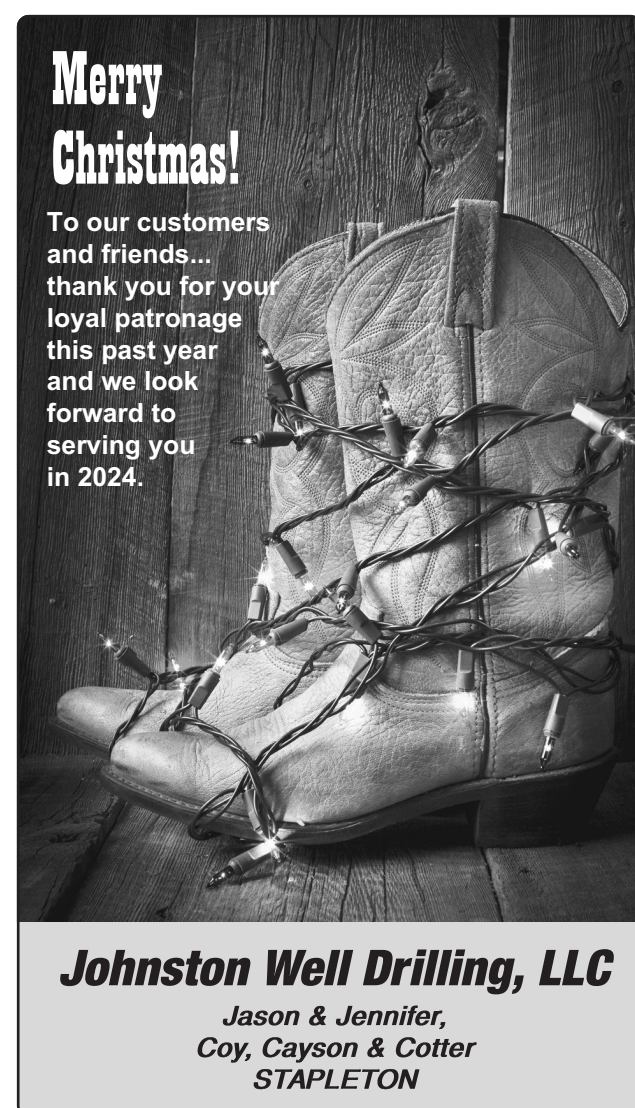
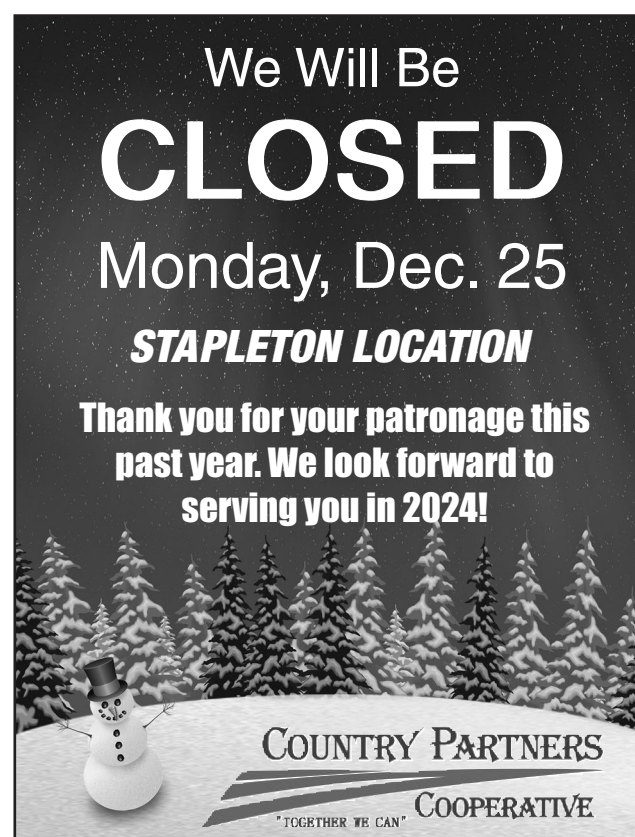
My favorite Christmas memory is that right before my birthday, we went to my grandpa and grandmas' house. My birthday is on December 24th. I got to open up a birthday present. I got a dump truck and an excavator. I got to pick my cake. I picked a pumpkin pie. I tried it for Thanksgiving and liked it so I decided to have it for my birthday cake. I went for a walk in the snow. That was my favorite Christmas memory.

By Wyatt Dailey

My favorite Christmas memory is getting chocolate every year. We make cookies using Christmas cookie cutters and we put frosting on them every year on Christmas Eve. We count down to Christmas on a calendar. We pop open a door for a treat. This is my favorite memory.

By Xavier Bruns

**Wishing our readers a very
Merry Christmas and a
peace-filled new year!**



Food Safety

(Continued from page B12)

until used and replaced every two hours.

Cleaning Cutting Boards

To keep all cutting boards clean, the USDA recommends washing them with hot, soapy water after each use; then rinse with clear water and air dry or pat dry with clean paper towels. Nonporous acrylic, plastic, or glass boards and solid wood boards can be washed in a dishwasher (laminated boards may crack and split).

Both wooden and plastic cutting boards can be sanitized with a solution of 1 tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water. Flood the surface with the bleach solution and allow it to stand for several minutes. Rinse

with clear water and air dry or pat dry with clean paper towels.

Bamboo cutting boards are harder and less porous than hardwoods. Bamboo absorbs very little moisture and resists scarring from knives, so they are more resistant to bacteria than other woods. Clean bamboo cutting boards with hot soapy water; sanitize if desired. Rub with food grade mineral oil (liquid paraffin) to help retain moisture.

Sources: Charcuterie Boards and Snacking, Connecting with Kris, University of Arkansas

Cutting Boards, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The science behind charcuterie, Kansas State Extension

If your list of New Year's resolutions is a mile long, you may be feeling overwhelmed and unsure where to start. Let these three essential wellness tips set you up for a successful year and give you the power, energy and determination you need to reach all your other goals.

Make Time For Breakfast

Many people make the mistake of skipping breakfast, particularly if they are trying to lose weight. But breakfast is an essential part of your overall health and wellbeing, giving you the fuel

and energy you need to power the day until lunch. This is important to help kickstart your metabolism and regulate your hunger.

Think you don't have time to prepare a healthy breakfast? You're not alone. However, many are open to implementing this habit with quicker breakfast options that cut prep time in half. In fact, 51% of consumers agree that frozen breakfast foods are the most convenient option and 37% said they would eat frozen breakfast foods more often if they were healthier, according to market research from Mintel. Thanks to quick and tasty options like Eggland's Best Frozen Breakfast Bowls, made with hearty ingredients and ready to eat in minutes, there are efficient ways to enjoy a nutritious breakfast. Not only do the bowls taste great, but they are made with nutritionally superior Eggland's Best eggs, which contain six times more vitamin D, more than double the Omega-3s and 10 times more vitamin E compared to ordinary eggs, so you can feel confident that you're getting optimal nutrition before taking on the busy day ahead. The bowls are available in three great tasting flavors, Sausage & Cheese, Salsa, Bacon & Cheese, and Loaded Potato Scramble, meaning you certainly won't get bored putting your new breakfast plan into action.

Practice Self-Care Between work, family life and other commitments, it can seem challenging to carve out time for yourself. But a little self-care goes a long way toward helping you

recharge and better manage all your responsibilities and stressors. Whether it's going for a run, taking a yoga class, doing arts and crafts or reading a book, be sure to spend some time each week doing something that you love that makes you feel your best.

Prioritize Sleep

Prioritizing sleep will improve every aspect of your physical and mental wellness and help you achieve all your other goals. Unfortunately, streaming devices, social media and other distractions make it all too easy to stay up later than you intend. Setting an alarm in the evening can serve as a gentle reminder that it's time to put down de-

vices and start your bedtime routine, helping you create a more consistent sleep schedule. This will also eliminate exposure to blue light late in the evening, an environmental factor that has been proven to make it harder to fall asleep.

Achieving your goals starts with feeling your best. Make that happen in the New Year by prioritizing the most essential building blocks of health and wellness, from sunrise to sundown.

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'Tis The Season For Scams: 5 Ways To Protect You And Your Family

(Statepoint) In today's hyper-connected digital universe, cyber criminals have more information than ever before, with the ability to reach you through unsecure public Wi-Fi, your email inbox, via text message, and more.

According to a Scam and Robocall Report from T-Mobile, Americans lost an estimated \$39.5 billion to phone scams in 2022. Lucky for you, there are several ways to protect and safeguard your personal information to help prevent scammers from scammin' this holiday season.

1. Avoid Public USB Ports: Traveling by plane this holiday season? The FCC warns that cyber criminals can download malware to public USB charging ports to gain access to your information.

Prevent this by using an AC power outlet instead.

2. Beware of Charity Scams: It's the season of giving, but the FCC warns many cyber criminals take advantage by creating fake charities staged as real nonprofit organizations to gain access to your payment information. Woof. To prevent this, don't click on suspicious email or text links and verify the organization is registered at the National Association of State Charity Officials or Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance before donating this holiday season.

3. Screen Your Calls: Scammers are continuously upping their game, with total robocall attempts up 75% from 2021 to 2022. Detecting whether an incoming call is a potential scam isn't

always easy, but T-Mobile's Scam Shield app makes it simple. Free to all T-Mobile customers, Scam Shield enhances your scam-blocking protections so you can say goodbye to scam calls. In 2022 alone, Scam Shield identified or blocked 41.5 billion scam calls in the T-Mobile network. That's a whopping 1,317 calls identified or blocked every second. With Scam Shield, when the network detects a potential scam call, it is flagged and displayed as "Scam Likely" on your device. Customers who want even more protection can download the Scam Shield app or dial #662# from their T-Mobile smartphone to enable Scam Block, which auto-

See Scamsy
Page B14



EXTENSION
Lincoln-Logan-McPherson Counties

Raising Amaryllis Flowers at Home

1. First, pick a large, firm, healthy amaryllis bulb.
2. Choose a container that is only 1 to 2 inches wider around than the bulb. Choose a potting mix that is light and drains water well.
3. Place the bulb in the container with the bulb covered half-way with the potting mix. Water the bulb thoroughly until the water runs out of the container.
4. Do not water the bulb again until the bulb's roots are well developed to avoid root rot. Place the bulb and container in a well-lit, cool place in the house, around 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit.
5. After they have finished blooming, the attractive foliage can be enjoyed in the home during the growing season. Place the amaryllis in a bright location in the home.
6. As the foliage starts to turn yellow in the home or outside, start to cut back on watering the bulb. Once the foliage has died, allow the potting media to dry out completely. Carefully trim the dead foliage back with clean scissors or knife. Store the amaryllis and its container on its side, in a cool place, preferably 40 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit, for two to three months. Do not water the bulb during this dormant period.
7. Repeat this growing process the next fall with the conditioned bulb for the next season.

For more information, contact David Lott, Horticulture Extension Educator
dlott2@unl.edu or call 308-532-2683 - Extension Office

David Lott is the Horticulture Extension Educator with the University of Nebraska
Lincoln Extension in North Platte.

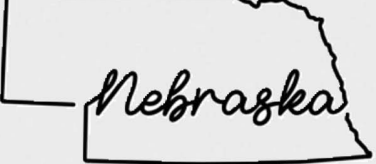
MERRY
Christmas

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to all of you!

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Lazy RW

Moorefield

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Plum • Apple • Sandhills Cowboy • Mango Peach
Syrup: Plum • Sandhills Cowboy • Chokecherry
Raspberry Chipotle Glaze • Mulberry Butter

Award
Winning

Cooper's Chase Bourbon

West Point

Distilled from Heartland Grain

Books by Local Authors

- Not All Who Wander Are Lost by Monica J. Kramer
- Christmas ABC's by Karen Hough
- Mark The Spark by Karen Hough
- God's Will by Jonathan Martino
- The Twisted Love of Food Addiction by Echo Laymon Pelster
- 100 Things To Do in the Nebraska Sandhills Before You Die by Alan Bartels

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Scams (Continued from page B13)

matically blocks any calls that match the database of scam calls. Take that, tricksters. To learn more, visit [t-mobile.com/scam shield](https://t-mobile.com/scamshield).

4. *Shop Smarter Online:* According to Statista, 57% of holiday shoppers plan to use their smartphone to make holiday purchases this year, and scammers are onto them, ramping up activity during the two weeks before Christmas. To minimize any cyber Grinches trying to steal your personal info, monitor your financial accounts regularly for suspicious charges and sign up for your bank or credit card company's text or email notifications to stay on top of fraudulent activity.

5. *Use Secure Tools:* Safeguard your online accounts with Multi-Factor Authentication, which requires users to enter two

different kinds of information to log in, like a password and one-time PIN code. It's like having a digital bouncer to make sure only you get into your accounts. Another protection is a password manager, giving you the ability to securely store passwords across multiple platforms and websites. The tool also provides an autofill password function and a new password generator.

To learn more about the industry's top fraud trends and how to stay protected from scammers year-round, check out T-Mobile's Scam Shield Report found at t-mobile.com/news.

While cyber threats are on the rise, you can sleigh scams by staying vigilant and incorporating these best practices into your life this holiday season.

SAD (Continued from page B9)

for you.

988 is the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline which provides a direct connection to trained, compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health-related crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. 988 is available 24/7 and is a free service. Any Nebraskan can call or text 988, or chat at <https://988lifeline.org/chat/> to be connected to a

trained counselor.

Need to talk or get immediate help in a crisis? Help is available. If you or a loved one need assistance, please reach out to: The Suicide and Crisis Lifeline; call, text, or chat 988.

Nebraska Family Helpline - Any question, anytime. (888) 866-8660.

Rural Response Hotline, (800) 464-0258.

Your faith-based leader, healthcare professional, or student health center on campus.

RSV Prevention Options Can Help Protect Your Child This Season

Last fall, the United States saw an early and significant spike in cases of Respiratory Syncytial Virus, or RSV, which is the leading cause of hospitalizations in all infants. Now, there are options available to help prevent RSV in babies, including a preventive antibody and an RSV vaccination during pregnancy.

During the first season the new RSV immunizations are offered, they may be limited in availability in provider locations. Public health experts are prioritizing use of the monoclonal antibody in infants at highest risk.

To ensure parents and caregivers of infants and young children have all the facts they need to protect their children during peak RSV season, the American Lung Association is sharing the following insights:

- RSV is extremely common. RSV infects people of all ages, and nearly 100% of all children become infected by age two.
- RSV can be severe. Most people, including

infants, develop only mild symptoms similar to that of a common cold, but for some, RSV can be severe and even life threatening. The leading cause of hospitalizations in all infants, up to 80,000 children younger than five are hospitalized due to RSV in the United States each year.

- Severity is unpredictable. Good overall health is not a safeguard against severe RSV. A study by the American Academy of Pediatrics found that 79% of children hospitalized with RSV were previously healthy.
- RSV season is now. RSV season typically begins in the fall and peaks in the winter.

Preventing Infection

RSV is easily spread from person to person through close contact through respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing. It can also survive on hard surfaces, such as toys and door-knobs, for many hours and can be spread by touching a surface with the virus on it and then touching your face or

your baby's face.

If you have contact with an infant or young child, especially if they were born prematurely, are very young, have chronic lung or heart disease, a weakened immune system, or have neuromuscular disorders, you should take extra care to keep the infant healthy.

To help prevent severe RSV illness in infants, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the RSV vaccination during weeks 32-36 of pregnancy in September through January, or the new monoclonal antibody. The preventive antibody is recommended for infants under 8 months old in their first RSV season and some young children between 8 and 19 months old at increased risk, such as children who have chronic lung disease as a result of being born prematurely. This one-dose immunization is a long-acting preventive antibody that provides an extra layer of defense to help babies fight RSV infections for five months.

Monoclonal antibodies are man-made proteins that mimic the immune system's naturally-produced antibodies to help fight off harmful viruses. This preventive antibody is not a vaccine, and not for children who are already sick with RSV.

If you are the parent or caregiver of a young child, you are also encouraged to:

- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid kissing your child while you're sick.
- Talk with your healthcare provider about your baby's risk and options to prevent severe RSV illness.

For more RSV information, visit Lung.org/RSV.

RSV impacts millions of people in the United States annually. Fortunately, this RSV season, there are more ways you can help protect your infant.

Letter To The Editor

Medigap - It is time to close the gap in Nebraska for those under age 65

LB32 was introduced by Senator Mike Jacobson of North Platte on January 5, 2023. This bill will make Medigap plans (also known as Medicare supplement insurance) available for purchase at a reasonable premium by the under age 65 disabled and ESRD (end stage renal disease) population in Nebraska.

Neighboring states passed laws years ago making Medigap plans available for purchase by the under age 65 disabled and ESRD population: Missouri - 1998; Kansas and South Dakota - 1999; and Colorado - 2003. These laws are working. This year Medigap bills passed overwhelmingly in the Kentucky and Virginia General Assemblies.

Nebraska is now one of only 14 states in the country that does not require Medigap insurers to sell any Medigap plans to those with disabilities under age 65. Without the opportunity to purchase a Medigap plan, under age 65 disabled and ESRD patients from other states may not want to move to Nebraska. Is this the message we want to send?

Currently 19 state and national associations, as well as the City of Lincoln, support LB32. We urge you to contact your state senator and encourage him or her to support LB32. This bill will help the under age 65 disabled and ESRD populations in Nebraska and their families.

Stephen and Jean Kay
North Platte, NE

Christmas. Whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others.

Bob Hope

ENJOY
the Season

We appreciate your support and we look forward to serving you in 2024!

Merry Christmas from the entire team at....

Prairie Hills Cafe

Tryon

Stanley & Shareen
Munson • Sandy Black
Angie Coker • Pam Schmidt

Please join us for a candlelight service
Sunday, December 24
6:00 P.M.

Cornerstone
Presbyterian Church - Stapleton

Sunday Mass
Saturday, December 23
St. Agnes: 5:00 P.M.
St. Boniface: 5:00 P.M.
St. John's: 7:00 P.M.

Christmas Liturgies
Sunday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Mass
St. Agnes: 4:30 P.M.
St. Boniface: 4:30 P.M.
St. John's: 6:00 P.M.
CHRISTMAS DAY
St. John's: 9:00 A.M.

Merry Christmas!

We look forward to serving you in the New Year

Alan & Annette
Kramer
Marie & Ashley

Blast From The Past

CIRCA 1946

Zola Karn submitted this picture of Ringgold School students in 1946. Pictured back row, l-r: Mary (Hora) Eatinger, Wanda (Allen) Daly. Front row, l-r: Karen (Allen) Empfield, Zola (Allen) Karn, and Charlotte (Hora) Leeds.

If you have something to contribute to "Blast From The Past," please send it to Creative Printers, P.O. Box 98, Stapleton, NE 69163, stop in with it at our office in Stapleton, email us at creativeprinters@gpcom.net, or call us with your information to 308-636-2444. Our readers make "Blast From The Past" possible.

Merry CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you to all our loyal customers!

Stockman Veterinary Clinic, PC

Dr. G.V. Thompson • Dr. Joseph Christen
Dr. Rolland Kramer • Dr. Richard Christen
Dr. Heather Richards

NORTH PLATTE