

# The Mapleton PRESS

Serving the communities of the Maple Valley-Anthon Oto, Charter Oak-Ute, & Schleswig Community School Districts



Thursday, December 26, 2024

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## Beef-N'-Brew hits a milestone anniversary

By Jenna Comes

The Beef-N'-Brew has been a landmark on Main Street in Mapleton for years; known for their roast beef, hot beef and on Fridays pan fried chicken and prime rib.

Dick and Barb Blake purchased the Beef-N'-Brew 50 years ago (November 1974) after moving back to the area from Oregon. The restaurant was for sale and they decided to purchase it.

Barb's sister, Deb Neubaum, has worked beside Barb at the restaurant the whole time.

"We are fixtures," Barb said and joked Deb only gets mad at her once and while.

Dick, was a huge part

of the Beef-N'-Brew as he loved to cook and got Barb into cooking. He passed away in 2016. Barb said he was the social butterfly of the place.

### BEEF-N'-BREW PLACE TO BE

The Beef-N'-Brew was the place to be almost every Friday and Saturday nights in Mapleton as they hosted live music and dances.

"It was wall to wall in this place," said Judy Worrell. Judy worked at the Beef-N'-Brew when the Blake's first opened and is now back helping at the restaurant today.

Deb added, "Those were the good old days. The place

was packed."

The kitchen would stay open until midnight. Along with the cooks, they would have three waitresses, a busboy and a someone to just work the cash register.

The Beef-N'-Brew didn't serve breakfast back then.

Barb said the menu has mostly remained the same except at one time, the restaurant served crab legs, clams and beef ribs.

The Beef-N'-Brew has done catering jobs over the years from funerals to weddings, wedding rehearsals and graduations. They also hosted a number of Christmas parties back in the day.

In 2006, the restaurant moved next door to their

current location. The building was the former Coast-to-Coast building and was completely remodeled from the kitchen, restrooms, bar area and meeting/party room.

### FAMILY

Along with running the business, the Blake's were raising three boys and they lived in the upstairs apart-

**Beef-N'-Brew continues on Page 3**

PHOTO BY JENNA COMES | MAPLETON PRESS

**The Beef-N'-Brew in Mapleton is known for their roast beef, hot beef, pan fried chicken and prime rib.**



## Holiday Music FILLS THE AIR

Area elementary students have been busy performing winter concerts.



The Maple Valley-Anthon Oto (Mapleton Center) elementary students performed "The Best Gift" for their winter program on Dec. 16. At the end of the first song, the students got to throw snowballs.



PHOTO BY JENNA COMES  
The Grandma (Rylan LeFebvre) chases the Chicken (Leo Dirksen) around the gym during the song "Grandma's Chicken Soup."



PHOTO BY DORIS JEPSEN  
The Charter Oak-Ute Kindergarten class performed "Jingle Bells," "Up on the House Top" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" during their part of the elementary winter concert.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED  
The Schleswig Elementary and Middle School performed their Winter Concert on Dec. 17.

# Updates from Mayor Brent Streck: Increase in Rate

Posted on Dec. 16

As the NewYear is almost here, I wanted to make sure everyone is aware of some price increases that are scheduled to happen. No one likes to hear that prices are going up, but we wanted to make sure these are not surprises for you and you can budget or make changes accordingly. More importantly we want you to understand why things are increasing instead of just putting them in place.

First off is an increase under Mapleton Communications. Internet and phone landline pricing stays the same for now. The only change is on the cable TV side. This is due to an increase from the channels, content and providers themselves. Every time you hear of contract negotiations between channels and broadcasters you can assume the price is going to increase.

Right now, Mapleton Communications is losing around \$4.40 a month for every customer that has our cable TV service, and that is before we are getting hit with another increase. On January 1, 2025 you will see an increase of \$6.50 a month on the basic plus rate. There is also a \$6.50

per month increase on the broadcast TV fee. HBO will also see a \$1.00 per month increase.

We are working on a plan to increase speeds and service levels in town. More updates on that this spring

The next increase is on the electric side. NIPCO who supplies us power has announced a 10% increase across the board. All cities in our cooperative are discussing rates right now. We feel like we have been able to run our department very efficiently and we have decided not to pass along the entire increase.

As of January 1, 2025, we are having a price increase of 6% on billing rates. Our current residential electric rate is around \$.105kWh. The average residential electric rate in Iowa is \$.1487kWh. So even with the increase we will be around \$.111kWh. Some of our surrounding towns are going up double digits. We will keep an eye on this and more than likely will have another increase later, but for right now we do not feel the need for the full increase. Just a disclaimer as these may not be the exact rates as things vary and change all the time,

but they are very close.

Those are the current increases. However these will not be the last. We are currently looking at our sewer budget. That fund saw an increase of \$163,515.00 over last year. Mostly due to price increases from our vendors and operating costs. We also have to look at new DNR regulations for chloride levels. We all use salt to reduce the nitrate levels in the water. Basically they are now saying there is too much salt in the water that is returned to the river. There is no filter for this. We either have to have everyone remove their water softeners in their homes, which we know is not going to happen. Or we need to have the major users in town reduce the salt they put in the sewer. The last option is to reroute the system into a pit that the salt would settle in before the water drains out. Some easy solutions, and some expensive solutions.

We are looking at many factors before we do any more increases. This includes consulting with engineers and other towns to see what they are doing and what other increases they see coming down the road. We are being mindful of your budgets as

much as possible while making sure we have good working services.

We are very lucky that we have a strong gas system that has not seen a lot of increases or issues (knock on wood). This helps us offset the costs of some systems that are seeing large increases, while making it so we do not need to look at increasing property taxes.

As always we will keep you up to date on any other increases. Know that we do everything possible to not have to increase rates. We are not only increases your rates but our own as well. The benefit we have is we have some control since these were never outsourced. All our rates are very competitive while keeping the funds local. And as always I ask that you not take out price increase frustrations on the ladies at city hall. They have no control over this and yelling at them does no good. These are not just increases and issues that are affecting us. All size towns and cities are affected and it seems to be a never ending story.

Now you know the rest of the story as Paul Harvey would say. (The younger generation can google him).

## A View from the Hill

# Experiences of the Year-Part One Christmas Baking

By Jenna Comes

For years, my mom has made cookie plates at Christmas time. To go along with her traditional recipes, there is something new on the plate each Christmas. She seems to make more and more each year.

She started with just Oreo truffles, then she added peanut butter, cookie dough, mint truffles.

I don't know how she made all of those things when my siblings and I were involved in junior high/high school basketball and played games four-five times a week.

Even while battling health issues this year, my mom found the energy to make the normal lineup. I insisted on helping to make her list a little easier. I was assigned to make Fudge Jumbos, Scotcheroots, and Seven Layer Bars.

I had never made Seven Layer bars before and they are my favorite!! I didn't know if I could make them

like Mom. Making the graham cracker bottom was hard. Next was to layer the chocolate chips, butter-scotch chips, coconut, walnuts and pour the sweetened condensed milk on top.

I let them cool for just a few minutes before taste-testing! The bars were a success.

My mom makes cookie trays, snack mix packs and sets of gourmet cupcakes for her church's God Harvest Sale (church auction).

I thought I was going to get fired after mixing my first batch of frosting, it was too runny. I recovered and did a better job with filling the snack mix bags and putting the cookie trays together.

I even put together a "snack bag" for my husband.

One of my favorite parts of Christmas at my parents house is putting cookie trays together. We get out all of the different types of cookies and walk around the

table to put together cookie plates to take home with



PHOTO BY JENNA COMES | MAPLETON PRESS

This is a picture of all the Christmas goodies.

us, to take to your spouse's family, and take to work.

Donna gets her own little box, as well.

# Drainage District Trustee Elections

### Absentee Voting:

If you are unable to vote at the polls for the Drainage District Trustee Election to be held on January 18, 2025, you may vote an absentee ballot in the Drainage Office of the Courthouse in Onawa, Monona County, Iowa, or submit a signed and notarized written request form acquired from the Drainage Office, include the complete address the ballot is to be mailed to, and which Drainage District Ballot you wish to vote.

Trustee elections will be held for the following Drainage Districts:

- Kennebec Drainage District
- Little Sioux Inter-County Drainage District
- McCandless Inter-County Drainage District
- Nagel Drainage District
- New Farmers Drainage District
- Sandhill-Lakeport Drainage District
- Soldier Valley Drainage District
- Upper Soldier Drainage District

### Vote by Agent:

Any PERSON or CORPORATION owning land or right-of-way within the District and assessed for benefits may have the person's or the corporation's vote cast by the person's agent or proxy authorized to cast such vote by a POWER OF ATTORNEY signed and acknowledged by the person or corporation, and filed before such vote is cast in the Drainage Office in Onawa, Monona County, Iowa. Such power of attorney shall:

1. Specify the particular election for which it is to be used.
2. Indicate the day, month, and year of such election.
3. Be void for all elections subsequently held.

Any questions regarding absentee voting or vote by agent should be directed to the Drainage Office, Onawa, Iowa, telephone 712-433-2630.

## CLINICS - JANUARY

**Mercy Cardiology** - No January Clinic  
**Dunes Dermatology** - Jan. 2, 16  
**Ear, Nose & Throat** - No January Clinic    **Nephrology** - Jan. 23  
**OB/GYN** - Kasuske: Jan. 14  
**Ortho** - CNOS: Jan. 8, 13, 15, 22, 27, 29  
**Surgery** - Jan. 14, 28    **Urology** - Jan. 2, 9, 16, 30  
**Vascular & Interventional Specialists** - Jan. 15

## PROGRAMS - JANUARY

Senior Health Insurance Information Program -  
 Please call hospital for an appointment  
 HMH Diabetic Education Classes (group or individual/new or review)  
 Please call HMH for more information  
 HMH Financial Assistance - Please call the Business Office  
 Foot Care Clinics - January 15, 2025 at  
 Ida Grove Westminster Presbyterian church  
 Immunization Clinic - 2PM-5PM Tuesday, Jan. 14th; 9am-Noon and  
 2PM-5PM on Wednesday, Jan. 15th

**TIP:** Wishing you and yours a healthy and happy new year."

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Please submit photo and information for the Mapleton Press's

# Cute as a BUTTON

Special featuring Babies Born in 2024

Please include the baby's name, date of birth, birth weight, parent's names, siblings and grandparents/great-grandparents. Pictured on the right is a sample of the announcement. There is no charge to submit a baby and can be submitted by parents or grandparents or great-grandparents who live in the coverage area.

Deadline is Friday, Jan. 10th, 2025

Send to Jenna Comes by email: reporter@mapletonpress.com, by mail: PO Box 187, Mapleton, IA 51034 or drop them off at The Mapleton Press office. For questions call 712-881-1101

The special will be published on Jan. 30, 2025!

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## The Mapleton PRESS

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502 Main St., PO Box 187, Mapleton, Iowa 51034  
 Phone: 712-881-1101 • Fax: 712-881-1330  
 news@mapletonpress.com  
 www.mapletonpress.com

The Mapleton Press Staff:  
 Mark Rhoades, Publisher  
 mrhoades@enterprisepub.com  
 and Chris Rhoades, Associate Publisher

Jenna Comes, Reporter/Designer  
 reporter@mapletonpress.com  
 news@mapletonpress.com

Donna Mohrhauser, Front Office  
 subscribe@mapletonpress.com

Echo Estep, Sales Manager  
 ads@mapletonpress.com



FILE PHOTO

This is a picture from inside the Beef-N-Brew when it opened in its new building on Main Street in March of 2006.

## Beef-'N-Brew, from page 1

ment. Deb was also busy raising a family.

A number of Barb and Deb's family members have helped them in the restaurant including their sister-in-law, Carla Mesenbrink. She has helped for a number of years, especially on Tuesday/Friday nights and on Sundays.

Barb recalls when her granddaughter, Taylor, started working. Taylor was bound and determined she was just going to wash dishes and wasn't going to work out front (be a waitress).

Barb said, "No your not, you're going out front."

Taylor replied, "No I'm not."

"Yes you are," Barb said. Grandma won the battle.

Taylor shared this about what the Beef-N-Brew means to her

"When I think about the Beef I think about my Grandpa Dick who is now passed on, the numerous family gatherings we have

had over the years, "playing" waitress following my aunts and other employees around definitely getting in the way, the numerous customers I have met over the years, living above the old Beef as a kid (one of the best places to play hide and seek), all the amazing food my Grams cooked and still is cooking, but my favorite would have to be my Grandma!! My favorite memory would have to be going in there after hours and hanging out with her talking her ear off about anything and everything! Because of her, I'd like to think I am an okay cook!! I will always be thankful for her and the things she has taught me over the years. Also can't forget Aunt Deb who also was a big part in my life growing up over the years!"

When called upon, Barb's three sons: Bobby, Chris and Jeremy will come into the restaurant and help out.



FILE PHOTO BY JENNA COMES | MAPLETON PRESS

Sisters, Barb Blake and Deb Neubaum, have worked together at the Beef-N-Brew for 50 years.

### EMPLOYEES AND CUSTOMERS

The Beef-N-Brew has had many employees in the past 50 years from waitresses, dishwashers, etc. Deb said the dishwashers have pretty much been different families (Else boys, Jacobson boys, the Daws family, Bleil girls, Beam girls, etc).

"You start with the older kid and then they just kind of work their way down," Deb said.

Barb and Deb have seen a number of customers come and go. Some have moved away and some have passed away.

Deb said, "We have been through a lot of customers over the years. Some are gone."

These former customers have children, grandchildren and great-grandchild-

dren now coming in to enjoy meals at the Beef-N-Brew.

When customer's kids/grandkids come home back to Mapleton to visit their families, Barb hears quite a few say, "We have to go to the Beef-N-Brew when we are in town."

"When they come back to visit, they say to Deb, 'You're still here and you're still working here?'"

She said her reply is, "Well yeah, where am I supposed to go."

As they slow down, Beef-N-Brew has cut back on their hours as they are open Tuesday-Sunday: 7 a.m.-1 p.m. and just open Tuesday (Mexican Night) and Friday (Pan Fried Chicken and Prime Rib) nights.

## Area Briefs

### December 24-26 Monona County Courthouse Closed

The Monona County Courthouse will be closed December 24 through December 26 for Christmas. Normal hours will resume on Friday, December 27.

### December 30 and January 3 Matter of Balance

At the Mapleton Community Center an exercise class on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, for anyone 60 years young and up. Called "A Matter of Balance" this class will help reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels of older adults who have

concerns about falling. This free class which lasts an hour will be held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m.

### January 7 Euchre at the Danbury Library

Winter is LONG! Need to get out? Come to Cord Memorial Library in Danbury; meet some new friends and learn a new game, or help us learn. They will continue with cribbage every other Tuesday. The next cribbage is Tuesday, Jan. 7 commencing at 4 p.m. and again on Tuesday, Jan. 14.

If we have interest, we will continue alternating each Tuesday between cribbage and euchre. Beginners to experts welcome.

## Stub Gray Shooting Range to close for season

The Stub Gray Shooting Range at Little Sioux Park near Correctionville, will close for the season on January 1, 2025, and reopen on March 1, 2025. Users are reminded that the range is open daily March 1 through December 31 each year, weather and site conditions permitting, with the exception of Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve Day, and

Christmas Day.

A daily or annual use permit is required to use the range. Daily permits can be purchased at the site and Individual or Family Annual Permits can be purchased online through the Conservation Board website at www.woodburyarks.org. All shooters are required to register at the check-in station.

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## Crawford County Farm Bureau receives membership award

Crawford, Decatur, Jefferson and Scott County Farm Bureaus have been named recipients of the 2024 Leo Waggoner Award. Each county was recognized during the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation's 106th annual meeting held Dec. 10-11 in Des Moines and will receive \$2,000.

This award celebrates county Farm Bureaus with the highest percent increase of membership over the previous year and a minimum of 50 volunteer points during their membership drive. It is dedicated in memory of Leo Waggoner who devoted his life to Iowa Farm Bureau.

## Monona County Cattlemen Annual Banquet is Jan. 18

The Monona County Cattlemen's Association will be having their Annual Banquet and Meeting, Saturday, Jan. 18, at Ute Town and Country. Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a steak dinner catered by Staley's Food Service at 6:30 p.m.

Entertainment this year will be provided by comedian Tyler Walsh, with trophy auction, gun raffle

and door prizes following. Tickets can be purchased from one of the following directors: Dave Jensen, Bob Otto, Ron Hausman, Ron Amunson, Gale Miller, Alan Cumming, Brett Davis, Dave Bruning, Barry Erickson, Jeff Mordhorst, Joel Bubke, Colin Mordhorst, Beau Hanson, Craig Reisburg or Michelle Kane.

Take time to relax and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From Patty & Corey



The Cutting Edge 2025

114 N. 4th Street Suite E • Mapleton, IA • Ph. 882-1617

## EARLY PRINT DEADLINES

Due to the upcoming Holiday Season the Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd Mapleton Press edition will be printed early. Deadlines are as follows:

## The Mapleton PRESS

Ad proof deadline: Thursday, Dec. 19/26, 5 PM

News submissions: Friday, Dec. 20/27, Noon

Legal deadline: Friday, Dec. 20/27, Noon

Classified deadline: Thursday, Dec. 19/26, 5 PM

Our office will be closing at Noon on Dec. 24th and closed on Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st.

The Mapleton PRESS

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## CRAWFORD COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

### January Specialty Clinic

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1 New Years Day - Specialty Clinic Closed	2 Audiology B. Pearson, HIS ENT P. Sherrerd, MD Podiatry M. Kelley, DPM	3 Cardiology A. Ramachandran, MD Ophthalmology J. Liu, MD
6 Cardiology R. Armbruster, MD	7 Cardiology J. Pandya, MD Cosmetics S. Luft, ARNP Dermatology/Plastics D. Ramos, MD	8 Cardiology A. Ramachandran, MD Hematology A. Nester, MD Neurosurgery R. Jensen, MD	9 Audiology B. Pearson, HIS Podiatry M. Kelley, DPM	10 Cardiology S. Patil, MD
13 Dermatology - K. Shull, DNP Podiatry M. Kelley, DPM	14 Cosmetics S. Luft, ARNP Vascular J. Cook, MD	15 Endocrinology S. Blount, MD L. Eiland, MD	16 Audiology B. Pearson, HIS Dermatology / Plastics D. Ramos, MD ENT P. Sherrerd, MD	17 Ophthalmology J. Liu, MD
20 Cardiology R. Armbruster, MD	21 Cardiology J. Pandya, MD Urology A. Bourne, MD & R. Luebbert, PA-C Vascular T. Ramos, MD	22 Cardiology A. Ramachandran, MD	23 Ophthalmology W. Thomas, MD Podiatry M. Kelley, DPM	24 Audiology B. Pearson, HIS
27 Dermatology K. Shull, DNP Podiatry M. Kelley, DPM	28 Cosmetics S. Luft, ARNP	29 Cardiology S. Ponangi, MD Endocrinology S. Blount, MD L. Eiland, MD	30 Audiology B. Pearson, HIS ENT P. Sherrerd, MD Podiatry M. Kelley, DPM	31

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Deadline for the Jan. 2nd issue of the Mapleton Press is Friday, Dec. 27 by Noon



Ida Grove Odebolt  
Mapleton Holstein

### HOLIDAY HOURS FOR ALL HPC LOCATIONS

Christmas Eve - Closed at Noon

Christmas Day - CLOSED

New Year's Eve - Closed at Noon

New Year's Day - CLOSED

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Confused about how to help your student plan for life after high school?



Our free service for parents is designed to help.



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Obituary...

**Elleen Oberreuter, 84**

Elleen K. Oberreuter, 84, of Danbury, passed away on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at the Willow Dale Wellness Village of Battle Creek.

Elleen Kay (Christie) Oberreuter, the daughter of Harlan and Phyllis (Wilcke) Christie, was born on May 5, 1940, in Ida Grove. She grew up in the Ida Grove and Battle Creek area. Elleen began her education in a country school north of Battle Creek and later graduated from Battle Creek High School with the class of 1958.

After graduation, Elleen worked at the Toy National Bank of Sioux City, and lived at Shesler Hall. On August 8, 1959, Elleen was united in marriage to Irvin J. Oberreuter in Danbury. The couple were blessed with seven children: Chris, Mike, Steve, Lynn, Mark, James, and Craig. Elleen liked to keep busy and over the years helped at Danbury Catholic School, the church, Rosary Society, B.C. Medical Auxiliary, and with 4-H groups. She and Irvin hosted several foreign exchange students. Their door was always open to those in need and they had several people live with them over the years.

In 1990, Elleen started working at Willow Dale Nursing Home in Battle Creek. She first started as a cook and then supervisor. Elleen was always busy cooking; especially banana bread, potato salad, mock prime rib, cookies and her special chex mix. Elleen's greatest joy in her life was her family and she treasured every moment with them. Elleen looked forward to attending all their activities and watching her family grow with grandchildren and great grandchildren. She loved traveling with Irvin and hitting all 50 states, along with spending winters in Arizona. She also enjoyed quilting, reading, and play-



Elleen K. Oberreuter

ing cards. Left to cherish her memory are husband of 65 years, Irvin Oberreuter of Danbury; children: Chris (Angela) Oberreuter of Adel, IA, Mike (Carrie) Oberreuter of Danbury, Steve (Sherri) Oberreuter of Battle Creek, Lynn Plantz of Rolfe, IA, Mark (Robin) Oberreuter of Pella, James (Angie) Oberreuter of Danbury, and Craig (Brandy) Oberreuter of Grimes; 18 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren; 2 step grandchildren and 4 step great grandchildren; extended family and friends.

Elleen was preceded in death by her parents, Harlan and Phyllis Christie; grandchildren, Tiara Oberreuter and Nicholas Plantz; great granddaughter, Faithlyn Plantz; son-in-law, Dave Plantz; and in-laws, Joe and Anna Oberreuter. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, Dec. 12, at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Danbury with Father William A. McCarthy officiating. Committal Services followed in the Danbury Catholic Cemetery. A Visitation and Vigil Service was held on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at the church.

Christensen-Van Houten Funeral Home of Battle Creek & Ida Grove, was in charge of the funeral arrangements. Condolences may be sent online at www.christensenvanhouten.com

Schleswig students make gift bags



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Schleswig students delivered the gift bags on Monday, Dec. 16 to all of the Schleswig Community members within the Denison Nursing Homes. This year the bags included: Fuzzy grippy socks, a Christmas ornament, crossword puzzles/activity books, games and activities that all residents can play, candies/goodies.

January Mapleton Connections Meals

Friday, January 3 – Pineapple Glazed Ham, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Mixed Green Salad, Whole Wheat Bread, Pineapple Crisp, French Dressing, Margarine  
 Monday, January 6 – Hot Dog, Roasted Red Potatoes, Hot Dog Bun, Fresh Seasonal Fruit, Mustad  
 Wednesday, January 8 – Sloppy Joe, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Hamburger Bun, Apple Crisp  
 Friday, January 10 – Sweet & Sour Chicken, Stir

Fry Vegetables, Fried Rice, Fortune Cookie, Mandarin Oranges  
 Monday, January 13 – Sliced Turkey Breast, Poultry Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Lima Beans, Dinner Roll, Pudding, Margarine  
 Wednesday, January 15 – Macaroni & Cheese, Green Peas, Cowboy Caviar, Dinner Roll, Hot Cinnamon Applesauce, Margarine  
 Friday, January 17 – Roast Beef w/Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Brussels Sprouts,

Dinner Roll, Brownie, Frosting w/Sprinkles, Margarine  
 Monday, January 20 – Closed  
 Wednesday, January 22 – Breaded Fish, Roasted Red Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Hamburger Bun, Cookie, Tartar Sauce, Margarine  
 Friday, January 24 – Chicken Supreme w/Gravy, Baked Sweet Potato, Green Beans, Whole Wheat Bread, Lemon Bar, Margarine

Monday, January 27 – Cheese Omelet, Hash-brown Casserole, Hot Cinnamon Applesauce, Blueberry Muffin, Orange Juice, Margarine  
 Wednesday, January 29 – Chicken Parmesan Casserole, Tossed Salad, Brussels Sprouts, Dinner Roll, Peach Crisp, Margarine, Italian Dressing  
 Friday, January 31 – Ham & White Beans, Green Peas, Glazed Carrots, Cornbread, Cookie, Margarine

Open applications for 2025 Paint Iowa Beautiful Awards

Diamond Vogel and Keep Iowa Beautiful have announced that applications for 2025 Paint Iowa Beautiful grants opened on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024. The long-standing partnership provides free paint to a wide variety of public service and community betterment projects throughout Iowa. Keeping up the appearance of our buildings, fa-

ilities and parks is an important component of viable communities. Well-maintained and painted buildings reflect pride in our communities. Thousands of gallons of paint have been donated to community groups through the Paint Iowa Beautiful program. "Keep Iowa Beautiful is honored to continue our

partnership with Diamond Vogel to award paint to these community betterment projects," said Andy Frantz, Executive Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful. "We were thrilled to see the number of quality applications submitted by Iowans working to make their state a more beautiful place to live, work and play." In its 20-year partnership

with Keep Iowa Beautiful, Diamond Vogel has awarded enough paint to cover over five million square feet of surfaces for 1,438 community projects in Iowa. Applications are due February 14, 2025. For more information, visit <https://keepiowabeautiful.org/grants-scholarships/grants-paint-iowa-beautiful/>.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

This space is provided free of charge by The Mapleton Press.

- Soldier Fish Fry at Soldier Comm. Center..... January 3
- Mapleton Legion Meeting, 7 p.m at Mapleton Legion Hall..... Jan. 9
- Berkenpas Classic.....January 11
- Bingo at Mapleton Legion Hall..... January 12
- Fun After School Time for Kids (FAST) at St. John's UMC in Mapleton, 3:30 p.m. .... Jan. 15
- Monona County Cattlemen Banquet ..... January 18
- Monona County Fair Board- 5th Annual Ice Fishing Tournament .....Jan. 31-Feb. 1
- Ladies Night at Ute Town and Country ..... Feb. 15
- Ute VFW Steak Night ..... Feb. 28
- Parents Night Out at St. John's UMC ..... March 1
- Lasagna Supper at St. John's UMC in Mapleton ..... March 16

To include your event in this list, contact The Mapleton Press at 712-881-1101 or [news@mapletonpress.com](mailto:news@mapletonpress.com). The purpose of this free space, which will run on a space available basis, is to help groups plan events without conflicting with other scheduled events. The information is limited to date and name of the event. This is a free space and The Mapleton Press has the right to decide how the activities are listed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Eunice (Neubauer) Kohles,** formally of Battle Creek, will be celebrating her **90th Birthday on Dec. 26.** Birthday wishes can be sent to Eunice at **2797 Skyline Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81506**



The card shower is being hosted by her husband Melvin, children Brian (Deniese) Kohles of Grand Junction; Denise (Paul) Dickman of Phoenix and Jan Kohles of Grand Junction; 7 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.



John Arndt turns 87!

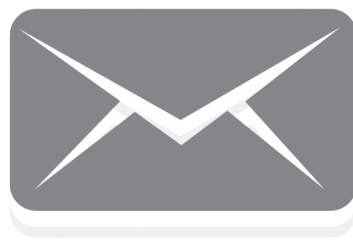
Help us celebrate our beloved grandpa, dad, uncle, and friend this month as he approaches his 87th birthday. We would love to shower him with cards, notes, and well wishes to remind him how much he means to all of us. Whether you have shared a story, laugh, or memory with John, please take a moment to send a card to brighten his day!

Cards can be mailed to: **John Arndt 12465 Oak Ave., Castana, IA 51010**

Charter Oak COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- January 6:** Charter Oak City Council Meeting
- January 9:** Charter Oak Development Corporation at Charter Oak Community Club Bar, 6:30 p.m.

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Ute Community Calendar

- January 2:** Ute VFW Meeting
- January 13:** Ute City Council Meeting
- January 22:** Ute Community Club
- February 15:** Ladies Night at Ute Town and Country
- February 28:** Ute VFW Steak Night

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# RAM WRITEUP

December 26, 2024

Presented by Maple Valley-Anthon Oto/Charter Oak-Ute Students



## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT... JACKIE MINTON

Parents: Stacy Ritchie & Jason Ritchie  
Activities at MVAOCO: Rams Shooting Club (9-12), Student Council (10-11), Dance Team (11) Wrestling Cheer (9-12), FFA (9-12) BPA (10-12), BPA Officer (12), Rams Singers (9-10), Speech (9-11), Blood Donor (10-12).

What will you miss most about being a Ram: I think the thing that I will miss the most about being a Ram is being around my friends all of the time, being able to go to games and have fun, and being able to go to shooting practice with my shooting team. I will miss all of our Dairy Queen runs after practice the most!

A favorite memory from high school: I don't think I have just one favorite memory from high school, but one that sticks out to me the most is when I was out to eat with the shooting team my junior year at the end of the season meal. We were all laughing and bonding like a team does even though the seniors were graduating.

Accomplishment you are most proud of: The accomplishment I am most proud of is when I made the BPA officer team and placed in the top 10 at the BPA State Leadership Conference.

Three words that describe yourself: Hard-headed, Determined, and Outgoing

Plans after graduation: My plans after graduation are to go to NCC to get my Associate of Arts Degree, then transfer to SDSU to Major in Agriculture Business and Minor in Accounting.

Hobbies: My hobbies would be going to the races with my family and friends, hanging out on the boat with my dad, and reading.

Favorite food: My favorite food is Chicken Alfredo from Olive Garden

What kind of vehicle do you drive? A 2011 Blue Ford Escape

What advice would you give to younger students? My advice to underclassmen would be make sure to get your homework done and turned in. You do not want to get behind on your homework because then you will get very behind. Don't procrastinate on homework even if you don't feel like doing it make sure to do it!

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? If I could travel anywhere it would be to Montana or anywhere to the western states.

When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up? When I was little I wanted to be a doctor and a mechanic!



## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT... TAYZUN JAMES

Parents: Michelle Carlson and Cody James  
Activities at MVAOCO: Student Council (4 years) State Student Council District Office (3 years) Dance team (3 years) FCCLA (3 years) Jazz Choir (1 year)

What will you miss most about being a Ram: Going to all the school activities and getting involved with all the school spirit! MVAO has given me so many opportunities and connected me with so many amazing humans, so I will definitely miss having that connection! But the future holds so many incredible opportunities as well!

A favorite memory from high school: How could anyone just pick one?! I would say one of my favorite memories is walking laps around the school with Senora Babl while we chat before class!

Accomplishment you are most proud of: Keeping up with all of my classes while still enjoying all of the hectic high school activities. But I would also say making it to the end!

Three words that describe yourself: Driven, Organized, and of course a drama queen

Plans after graduation: I plan on attending Western Iowa Tech for one year then transferring to the University of Iowa to study nursing to hopefully become a labor and delivery nurse.

Hobbies: Some of my hobbies include dancing, singing, and cooking. But I am a busy girl, so I am always trying new hobbies!

Favorite food: My favorite food is watermelon, but I would also never turn down a piece of dark chocolate!

What kind of vehicle do you drive? That is a question for my mom! Haha!

What advice would you give to younger students? Be involved! High school is so much more memorable when you put your fears aside, and just go for it! You are only young once, so try the sport or the club! Trust me when I say, people are more focused on themselves than they are you, so don't stress!

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? I would love to go to Ireland or Italy one day!

When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up? When I was little I was 100% convinced that I was going to be a rockstar! I even sang Firework by Katy Perry at my preschool graduation to try to kick-start that goal! Haha!



## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT... KAEL HAMANN

Parents: Jana and Lance Hamann  
Activities at MVAOCO: Cross Country, Track, Quiz Bowl, FFA, BPA, Gold Club, and NHS

What will you miss most about being a Ram: I will miss all the activities I have been involved in, and the fun moments with friends that came along the way.

A favorite memory from high school: 2024 state track qualifier, more specifically our 4x800 dominating and taking 1st.

Accomplishment you are most proud of: At the time of writing, I am most proud of running well in the 4x800 at State on no sleep.

Three words that describe yourself: Hardworking, caring, funny

Plans after graduation: Pursue a degree in AgBusiness likely at ISU.

Hobbies: Cooking, reading, exercise, spending time outside, playing piano

Favorite food: Chili + cinnamon rolls

What kind of vehicle do you drive? 2015 Jeep Cherokee Latitude

What advice would you give to younger students? Learn to love learning and get involved in all the school's activities

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Italy.

When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up? Probably an astronaut. I was a silly kid.

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# 2nd Quarter Reading Celebration at COU

The Charter Oak-Ute elementary students gathered for their second quarter Reading Celebration on Friday, December 13. Mrs. Green's 4th grade students began the event by sharing various winter and Christmas poems. Next, Ms. TenEyck's second graders shared a fun reading titled, 'Twas the Day Before Christmas Break.' Mrs. Oberreuter followed up the student segment by sharing the classroom reading awards and a little trivia about the holiday books in the COU library.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

**Students receiving various Reading Awards:**  
**Front Row:** Bennett Lavender, Stella Vice, Kylee Lenninger, Paisley Carter, Millie Christophersen, Nora Hadden, and Chloe Amunson.  
**Middle Row:** Lauryn Bernholtz, Casey Skarin, Charlee Lavender, Lindy Vogt and Addison Wilcox.  
**Back Row:** Willow Raymie, Britzaidy Factor, Charlotte Staley, Colton Hunter and Ben Klinker. Missing from photo: Lyrik Pryor.



Samsen Schumann, Gracyn Nemitz and Colton Hunter sharing poems.



Brydan Rosburg, Lindy Vogt, Brynn Leitz, Lauryn Bernholtz, Isabella Hernandez and Jax Conyers during the second grade reading.



Wyatt Teut and Charlee Lavender sharing their poem.

## MVAO Elementary hosts guest authors



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The MVAO K-5 elementary students from both centers attended a special event on December 11. Izzy B and Ben Askew, two author/illustrators from the Joplin area traveled to Mapleton to share their stories, some of their methods, and to speak with the students about working toward their dreams. The presenters shared their favorite books growing up and how their love of reading came at different times in their lives with the help of people very important to them. The event was sponsored through a grant from the MVAO Foundation. The gentlemen, dressed as pirates were full of energy and humor, and kept the students engaged throughout their presentation.



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# Mapleton Press

# Photo Rewind

**10 Years Ago**  
**December 25, 2014**

Shawn Flanigan, Kayla Morgan, and Laura Perez were recently named School Winners for the nationally recognized Wendy's High School Heisman Award. Flanigan, Morgan, and Perez were selected based on their outstanding academic and athletic achievements, and leadership in their community. Kayla Morgan was also chosen as a State Finalist in the state of Iowa.

Last year, the Board of Control of the Iowa School Athletic Association developed a new award entitled "Friend of the School." Each member school was provided information about the award and an application and was invited and encouraged to participate. The award is designed to honor an individual(s) who support school activities in his/her respective districts and enjoy working on behalf of students. The award is an annual award. The I.H.S.A.A. provides the school with a certificate honoring the recipient's contributions.

The Maple Valley-Anthon Oto "Friend of the School" Award was awarded to Myron Rozell and Mike Friedrichsen. Friedrichsen and Rozell help the MVAO school in a number of ways as they are the line judges for home volleyball games and run the scoreboard during the home basketball games. Rozell also announces the starting

lineups before volleyball and basketball games.

**20 Years Ago**  
**December 23, 2004**

Sunday guests in the Lawrence and Marguerite Nelson home were Harold and Bertha Nelson and David Nelson of Sloan, Dean Nelson of Onawa, Mable Nelson of Soldier, Fran Barr, Margery Bueoy and Dorothy Klanderud.

Norman and Sandra Parker celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary taking a trip to Nashville, Tennessee. They were married December 6, 1964 and have two children Teresa and Bruce.

The new weight room at the MVAO school features all new equipment plus many more individual pieces that their previous space. Mapleton Utilities and the Triad Group/Maple Valley Mercy Medical Clinic provided funds for the new equipment.

**30 Years Ago**  
**December 29, 1994**

Bud and Bonita Kane of Mapleton, Hazel Hanson and Brady and Cathy Hanson were dinner guests in the Brad and Mary Jo Hanson home helping Beau celebrate his 5th birthday.

Wrestling cheerleaders for Maple Valley Anthon Oto this year are Laurie Cooper, Tiffany Dirksen, Melissa Hahn, Elizabeth Jensen and Sara Andre.

Pictured in action shots for MVAO basketball are John Rosener, Dennis Fla-

nigan, Rusty Kuhl and Troy Dean.

**40 Years Ago**  
**December 27, 1984**

A former resident of Smithland, who now resides in California, has purchased the Smithland school building that was closed in 1981. It is being renovated into a community center.

Maurice Jensen of Castana drove the team and sleigh that delivered Santa to the Community Building to pass out treats to the kids.

A former resident of Mapleton and Danbury area, Otto Schruk of Sioux City, is part of a new game that is being offered on the market, called the AWARE game. Otto is business manager for Creative Awareness Associates.

**50 Years Ago**  
**December 26, 1974**

Denice Rossow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rossow of Mapleton graduated from Hawkeye Institute of Technology at Waterloo with a diploma as a Medical Lab Assistant.

Fred Preul, who makes his home at the Arlington Hotel was honored by friends and relatives on his 80th birthday.

Anderson Construction Co., Inc. has been honored by the National Organization of the Associated General Contractors of America for its outstanding safety record for 1973.



Santa visited Mapleton as part of the Mapleton Christmas Committee's program in 1974. The jolly old man was at the fire station with free candy and holiday wishes for the children. He handed out almost 650 sacks of candy to the youngest that flocked to the fire station to see him.

# Charter Oak-Ute

**20 Years Ago**  
**December 23, 2004**

Jessica Martz of Ute graduated from Iowa Western Community College in December 18 ceremonies. Jessica graduated with highest honors, and received an Associate's Degree in Applied Science in Supervision and Management of Child Care Centers.

The Charter Oak-Ute Girls Basketball Team notched win number five with an impressive 73-69 victory over the AR-WE-VA Rockets. Tessa Lally was high scorer with twenty points, Kristin Bumsted had eighteen and Kala Kuhlmann contributed fourteen.

**30 Years Ago**  
**December 29, 1994**

A Flag Dedication Ceremony was held December 19 at the Charter Oak Community Building by American Legion Post #66. The ceremony conducted by Post Commander Vernon Holtrah, began with the posting of the colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The flag to be dedicated was the one presented by the Government of the United States to Margaret Holtorf, widow of Vernon F. Holtorf. A flag pole with stand was donated by Wilbur Holtorf and dedicated flag will now be on display at the Charter Oak Community Building. A

tree, donated by Vernon Holtrah, has been planted at the Charter Oak Arboretum in memory of Vernon Holtorf.

**40 Years Ago**  
**December 27, 1984**

A seven hundred pound steer, owned by Percy Creese of Charter Oak, got himself into a deep well of trouble on Sunday. The animal fell through planks covering a well that is approximately twenty five feet deep. Tony Schmieler, Orlan Creese, Randy Creese and Dr. James Else came to help Percy figure out how to get the steer out of the well. Tony then volunteered to climb down into the well and put a belt sling and chain around the steer. By connecting the chain and a rope to a tractor loader, the men were able to pull the animal up and out. The steer suffered no apparent injuries, other than being very wild and causing much difficulty in removing the sling.

Dr. Bendixen of Denison, and the satellite office in Ute, had the honor of bringing Santa Claus to town by helicopter on December 22. Santa landed in the middle of Main Street in Ute, to the delight of children on hand.

**50 Years Ago**  
**December 27, 1974**

The Methodist Youth Fellowship of Charter Oak and

Ute held their Christmas Program at the Ute Methodist Church on Sunday. The service began with all present lighting a candle, symbolizing Faith, Hope and Love. Nancy Pohlmann and Mark Lorenzen were the leaders of the program.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Iversen and daughter of Granda, CA, arrived Thursday evening to visit with his parents and Mrs. Iversen's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Meseck.

# Schleswig Leader

**20 Years Ago**  
**December 23, 2004**

The Schleswig VFW Auxiliary Unit 3930 recently received a special award in honor of its sixtieth anniversary. The group met December 13 at the Bank Iowa meeting room for their annual Christmas potluck. Auxiliary President, Pam Gronau, presented the members with a certificate which she had received from the National American Legion Auxiliary President, JoAnne Ott. Elvera Hollander is a Charter Member of the Auxiliary and remains very active in the organization. Other Charter Members are LaRue Quandt and Milda Schiernbeck.

The Schleswig Elementary and Middle Schools have been collecting groceries for the Temporary Aid Program in Crawford County. School Counselor, Traci Beeck, said she was overwhelmed by the generosity of students and parents in the district.

**30 Years Ago**  
**December 29, 1994**

The Farmer's State Bank of Schleswig is pleased to announce the hiring of Todd Schultz as a loan officer, effective January 1, 1995. He will be located in

the Schleswig office for his initial training period and then will be working with Wayne Kuhlmann in the Ricketts office. Todd is the son of Marlowe and Diana Schultz of Schleswig.

Lyle Schumann, son of Merle and Sylvia Bielenberg of Schleswig, has been accepted into the Farm Equipment Mechanics Program for the Spring Semester at Iowa Lakes Community College.

**40 Years Ago**  
**December 27, 1984**

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Baker of Kiron held an Open House on December 16 at the Kiron Food Palace in honor of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. The event was hosted by their nieces and nephews.

Todd Beeck of Schleswig, is one of twenty nine students at the University of South Dakota to be included in the 1985 edition of "Who's Who Among Students In American Universities and Colleges." Beeck is a senior, majoring in education.

**50 Years Ago**  
**December 26, 1974**

The final drawing of the season, for a quarter of beef, sponsored by the Schleswig Business Men's

Club was held with the winners being Allan Johannsen, Mrs. Warren Tyler and Mrs. Hugo Dahms.

Two former Schleswig High School students have been recognized by Head Coach John Gregory of South Dakota University as outstanding football players, good students and fine young men. Brothers Fred Schmidt, a senior, and Bob Schmidt, a freshman, are the sons of Dr. and Mrs. D.L. Schmidt of Schleswig.

## Charter Oak-Ute Community Schools

January 2025

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
					· In-Service No School	· Youth BB · HS BB vs. South Central Calhoun @ Mapleton
No School - Christmas Vacation; Classes resume on Jan. 6						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	· Classes Resume · JH BB vs. Ridge View @ Charter Oak · HS BB @ Cherokee	· 2nd & 3rd Grade Dental Sealants		· Talent Search · HS Wrestling @ Lawton	· HS Wrestling @ Ashland · HS BB @ Kingsley	· Youth BB · HS BB @ Mapleton
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	· JH G BB @ West Harrison · HS BB vs. Boyer Valley @ Mapleton	· JH G BB @ Logan · HS BB vs. Ridge View @ Mapleton	· School Board Meeting @ 5PM Joint Board Meeting @ Mapleton, 7PM		· JH G BB @ Woodbine · HS BB vs. Siouxland Christian @ Malpeton	· HS Wrestling Conference Tournament @ Onawa
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		· HS BB @ Lawton	· No 4 Year Old Preschool	· JH G BB vs. West Harrison @ Charter Oak · HS BB vs. East Sac @ Mapleton	· JH G BB vs. Boyer Valley @ Charter Oak · HS BB vs. Westwood @ Sloan	· Youth BB · District Large Group Speech · HS Wrestling @ Ogden
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	· HS State Jazz Band Festival			· HS Boys BB Conference Tournament · HS Wrestling @ Mapleton	· HS Girls Wrestling State Qualifying · HS Girls BB Conference Tournament	· HS Wrestling @ East Mills

This calendar is sponsored by the following businesses:

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Pastor Marty Davis  
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Pastor: 757-286-5732  
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Study  
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9 a.m. Adult Bible Class  
10 a.m. Worship Service  
Wednesday: No Confirmation  
Thursday: No Ricketts Bible Study

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Charter Oak, Iowa  
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Worship

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Saturday: 5 p.m. Mass

## IDA GROVE

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PARISH**  
Ida Grove, Iowa  
Rev. William McCarthy  
Tuesday: 7:30 a.m. Mass  
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass

## JORDAN VALLEY

**JORDAN VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH**  
23670 Plum Ave.  
Castana, IA 51010  
Pastor Justin Ingram  
712-431-6345  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School  
10 a.m. Coffee  
10:30 a.m. Church  
Sunday Evening Youth Group-Call for time

Monday: 2 p.m. Women's Bible Study  
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Awana  
Friday: 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study

## KIRON

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Kiron, Iowa  
Rev. Jeff Hansen  
Office phone: 675-4222  
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Worship  
Noisy Offering

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Kiron, Iowa  
Pastor Bruce Kaihoi  
Office phone: 675-4327  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship

**ST. JOHNS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Kiron, Iowa  
Pastor Mark Kluzek  
Office phone: 675-4617  
Sunday: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday: 11 a.m. Bible Study  
Tuesday: 9 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. Confirmation

## MAPLETON

**FAITH BIBLE CHURCH**  
Mapleton  
Phone 882-1390  
Pastor Travis Kaufman  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School  
10 a.m. Worship Service  
6:30-8 p.m. Middle School Youth Group  
1st & 3rd Sundays and High School Youth Group 2nd & 4th Sundays  
Wednesday: 6:30-8 p.m. AWANA

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Mapleton  
Rev. William McCarthy  
Wednesday: 7:30 a.m. Mass  
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass

**ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Mapleton  
Parish Assistant, Pastor Peitsch-Vacancy  
Pastor; John Stacy-Vicar,  
Office: (712) 881-2243  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship  
Followed by Bible Class after services

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Mapleton  
Pastor Curt Copple  
Sunday: 10 a.m. Breakfast  
11 a.m. Worship

**ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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1st & 3rd Sunday  
Gene Tolstedt  
2nd & 4th Sunday  
Crytal Lundt  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship

## ONAWA

**ONAWA BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
903 Diamond St., Onawa  
Phone 712-423-9852  
Pastor Matt Sperling  
Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School  
11 a.m. Worship  
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer Meeting  
7 p.m. Worship

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
316 15th St., Onawa,  
Phone 712-423-1846  
Pastor Pastor Paul Coen  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship  
10 a.m. Sunday Coffee Fellowship  
Wednesday: 5 p.m. Youth School

**HOPE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**  
2160 Iowa Ave., Onawa,  
Phone 433-2395  
Pastor Stan Johnson  
Sunday: 10 a.m. Summer Sunday  
Worship - Nursery is provided for ages 3 and under  
Tuesday: 1:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study  
Wednesday: 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible



*"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')." Matthew 1:22-23 NIV*

## The Day After Christmas

When I was a child I remember getting the Sears "Wish Book" in the mail every year sometime in September. This was a hefty full-color Christmas catalog filled with toys, but also with clothing and all sorts of products to get everyone excited about Christmas. We may complain about Christmas decorations going up before Thanksgiving (or Halloween), but the Sears "Wish Book" literally came out in late Summer or early Fall, so selling Christmas earlier every year is nothing new. And as children we seemed to pine for those gifts for months. As adults we are more interested in spending time with loved ones and having some time off from work. But most of us still approach the holiday season with childlike expectation, which is often followed by something approaching "letdown" the day after Christmas, or at least after the holidays are over and we're back at work or school. But if we really think about what Christmas celebrates, the days after Christmas should be the ones where we celebrate the joy of what Christmas really means. That is, the days after the original Christmas (the birth of Jesus) were days of nurturing our Saviour, days to enjoy the presence of God's gift to us, which is Emmanuel, or God with us.  
-Christopher Simon

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**ONAWA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
1103 13th St., PO Box 57,  
Onawa  
Phone 423-1115  
Pastor David Godwin  
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Worship

## RODNEY, SMITHLAND

Rodney United Church of Christ in Rodney and Smithland United Methodist Church  
Pastor Anthony Bainbridge  
September and November at Rodney UCC  
October and December at Smithland UMC  
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship at Smithland UMC  
Tuesday: 9 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study at Smithland UMC

**SCHLESWIG IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Schleswig, Iowa  
Pastor Merle Mahnken  
Office phone: 676-2235  
Wednesday: No Bible Study  
No Confirmation  
9 a.m. Worship w/HC  
Thursday: No Bible Study  
Saturday: 4 p.m. Worship w/HC  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship  
10:15 a.m. SS & BC  
Monday: Last Day for Offerings to be included in 2024

Wednesday: No Bible Study  
No Confirmation  
Thursday: No Bible Study

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
409 Maple Street  
Schleswig, Iowa  
Office phone: 712-676-3917  
Pastor Kirk Manchester  
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship  
Tuesday: 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service

**SOLDIER SOLDIER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
223 Lark St., Soldier  
712-884-2434  
Interim Pastor Paul Coen  
Sunday: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11 a.m. Worship

**TRIPLE PARISH**  
Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Soldier Township  
St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
Hanover Township  
Pastor: Richard Merrill  
Office Phone 679-2701

Thursday: No Ricketts Bible Study  
Saturday: At Immanuel 6 p.m. Worship Service  
Thursday: No Ricketts Bible Study

## TURIN

**TURIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
219 Wolfe St., Turin  
Phone 712-423-1115  
Pastor David Godwin  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Communion Service

## UTE

**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Ute, Iowa  
Pastor Nathan Peitsch  
Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service w/HC  
No Catechism  
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service w/HC

# HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD LATELY?

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY


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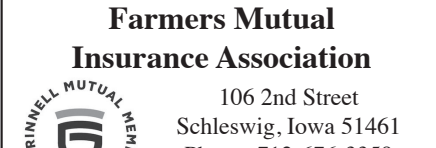
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A keepsake collection of Christmas wishes from area students



PHOTO BY JENNA COMES

The MVAO (Mapleton Center) Elementary performed "The Best Gifts" for their winter concert on Dec. 16.

MVAO Elementary - Mrs. Swanson's....

## Third Grade: I Would Rather

I would rather have a pet reindeer than a pet elf. I love animals. I love baby reindeer. My opinion is that reindeer are the cutest animals on earth. It can fly. Reindeer are not messy. I would potty-train her. That is why I would rather have a pet reindeer than a pet elf.  
- Amelia Treusch

I would rather ride the Polar Express than ride on Santa's sleigh. I've never been on a train before. I think going on a train would be so fun! I wouldn't like going on a sleigh because of the heights. I'd rather be closed in like a train is, and Santa's sleigh is easy to fall out of. I think going on a train would be better than Santa's sleigh. That's why I would rather ride the Polar Express than Santa's sleigh.  
- Fred Tirevold

I would rather have a pet reindeer than an elf. I could fly with a reindeer. I love reindeer because they're cool. Reindeer are adorable, elves are dwarves. I could fly to Hawaii. I would treat him like a king! I could fly, treat him like a king, and that's why I would rather have a pet reindeer.  
- Boston Paulsen

I would rather ride in Santa's sleigh than ride on the Polar Express. I just once want to have fun riding on his sleigh. I think it would be more fun riding in Santa's sleigh than riding the Polar Express. I could press the buttons to help Santa. I'm hoping I can pet one of the reindeer. I think it would be more fun on Santa's sleigh than riding on the Polar Express.  
- Liam Thompson

I would rather have a pet reindeer than a pet elf. I would rather have a pet reindeer because I could fly on it. I could get my sled and have a flying sleigh. I would be the coolest kid in the world. I could cuddle with him and feed him. I could feed him a bottle because he is so little. I would rather have a pet reindeer.  
- Brynlee Dose

I would rather ride on Santa's sleigh than ride on the Polar Express. I think Santa's sleigh is cooler. I would love to see the elves! I love Santa! I would love to talk to Santa! I would really, really like to ask Santa for a Kindle. That's why I would rather ride on Santa's sleigh than ride on the Polar Express.  
- Kinley Goslar

I would rather have a pet reindeer than a pet elf. I love animals! I think flying a reindeer is a good idea. I do not want to deal with traffic! I would name him Bob. I think elves are too Christmasy and I do not want it to be Christmas every Monday. That's why I would rather have a pet reindeer than a pet elf.  
- Henry Kelm

I would rather bake cookies with Mrs. Claus than make toys with Santa's elves. I love to bake! I think it would be fun to get some of Mrs. Claus's recipes. I think it would be fun to bake with Mrs. Claus. I'm not good at making things. I am really good at decorating cookies. I would rather bake cookies with Mrs. Claus.  
- Addison Maas

I would rather make toys with Santa's elves than bake cookies with Mrs. Claus. I love to build! I love elves! I think it would be fun. I think toys are cool! I think it would be cool to see elves! That's why I would rather make toys with Santa's elves than bake cookies with Mrs. Claus.  
- Kinzley Burke

I would rather ride in Santa's sleigh than ride on the Polar Express. I always wanted to get on his sleigh. I like Santa.

I like Santa because he brings presents! I like Santa because he is a hard-working person. I like Santa because he is nice and kind. That's why I would rather ride on Santa's sleigh than ride on the Polar Express.  
- Axel Revolorio

I would rather ride on the Polar Express than ride in Santa's sleigh. I love hot chocolate! I want to see the North Pole. I have never been on a train. Who doesn't like a PJ night on a train? I think it would be fun. That's why I would rather ride on the Polar Express than in Santa's sleigh.  
- Ava Havick

I would rather have a pet elf than a pet reindeer. It would be fun to have an elf. It would be fun to play with it. I could feed him cookies. I could help my elf in the workshop. I could do lots of different things with him. That's why I would rather have a pet elf than a pet reindeer.  
- Camden Tisdale

Schleswig Elementary - Mrs. Friedrichsen's....

## Third Grade: Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
My name is Raine. I am a 3rd grade student and am 9 years old. How are the reindeer, you and Mrs. Claus doing? For Christmas I would like hard horses and a real axolotl because I love them. I would also like a toy axolotl and horse stuff and some other toys I do not have.  
Your Friend, Raine

Dear Santa,  
My name is Bentley. I am a student at Schleswig School. I would like a PS5, 100 dollars, PS4, Madden and an iPhone.  
Your Friend, Bentley.

Dear Santa,  
My name is Mildred. I am a 3rd grade student at Schleswig School. I am 8 years old. How are the reindeer? I will be making amazing homemade cookies. Can I get some Posca pens, some Buble and Touch land?  
Your pal - Mildred

Dear Santa,  
My name is Mateo. I am a 3rd grader at Schleswig school. I am 9yrs old.  
How is Mrs. Claus, Rudolph and you?  
For Christmas I would like a drone and PS5 and a mountain bike. Thank you!  
Your friend, Mateo

Dear Santa,  
My name is Scarlett. I am a 3rd grader at Schleswig school. How are you and the elves? I am 8 years old. Am I on the nice list? The only thing I want most is a new tv for my room. My dad's favorite movie is

Christmas Vacation so last year on christmas we got him clark's pj's. Fill my stocking with good stuff. Thank you!!!  
Your Friend, Scarlett

Dear Santa,  
My name is Joe. I am a 3rd grade student and 8 years old. I go to Schleswig School. How are the reindeer? I will make sure I leave food for the reindeer and you. Here are some things I would like this year: I would like The Wild Robot books, a drift rc car, Hot Wheels premium Shelby Cobra, 24" tires, 16" tires, 100mm scooter wheels, a real axolotl and an iPhone 15.  
Your Friend, Jo

Dear Santa,  
My name is Sebastian. I am a 3rd grader at Schleswig School. I am 8 years old. How is Mrs. Claus and the reindeer doing? I would like Pigeon books, Monster Inc., and Walle movies. I would like a plushy, too. Thank you Santa.  
Your friend, Love, Sebastian

Dear Santa,  
My name is Anthony. I am 9 years old and a 3rd grade student at Schleswig school. How is Mrs. Claus and the reindeer?  
I would like some clothes and a VR headset. Thank you!  
Your friend, Anthony

Mrs. Friedrichsen's Letters to Santa continues on Page 11

Wishing all the best to all the best people we know ... our customers! With appreciation for your kind patronage this past year.

We will be closing at Noon on New Year's Eve and closed on New Year's Day.

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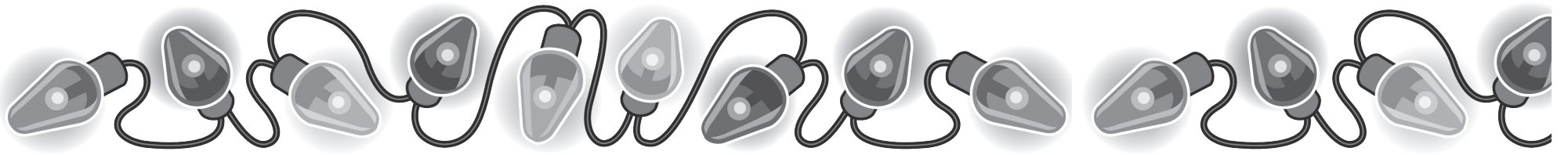
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As we wrap up the year, our thanks and best wishes to all of you!

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MVAO Elementary - Mrs. Blake's....

## Third Grade I Would Rather..

I would rather wear a Santa suit than an elf suit. I could act like Santa. I would say Ho, Ho, Ho. People would like my costume because I would look funny. I could act like I'm giving presents to kids. I could wear a Santa beard. This is why I would rather be like Santa.

By: Brecken Wenger

I would rather get a new pet for Christmas than a toy. My first reason is because pets are cuddly and they need homes. You can dress up pets and pets can live longer than toys. Pets can play with toys and they can have babies. I can't wait for Christmas.

By: McKayla Zimmerman

I would rather watch The Grinch Who Stole Christmas than watch The Polar Express. I love The Grinch because it is so good and it is so funny because the Grinch falls on the snow. That Grinch is way better than the Polar Express. I have watched The Grinch, I haven't watched The Polar Express. The Grinch is funnier. The Polar Express is not funny. I can not wait to watch The Grinch Who Stole Christmas.

By: Carmen Schaffer

I would rather wrap the Christmas presents than decorate the Christmas tree because I've never wrapped the Christmas

presents. My next reason is that I can see everyone's presents before they open them. My last reason is that I don't want to decorate the Christmas tree because the ornaments are hard to get on and they make me frustrated. These are the reason why I would rather wrap the Christmas presents than decorate the Christmas tree.

By: Garrett Brown

I would rather get a new pet for Christmas than a toy. I want to have a new pet dog because they're fun to play with and they like to play bite. They fight other animals and they kill other animals. I can play sports with them and do tricks. That's why I want to have a pet dog.

By: Henry Riesberg

I would rather get a pet than a toy. My first reason is that my dog, Rosco, can run around with another dog. So when I'm in the middle of stuff and I don't have to hop in the truck and run him. My second reason is I can't throw the ball and Rosco can race to it. My third reason is I could take the other dog to our lake house since Rosco doesn't like trips. And those are my reasons why I would rather have a dog than a toy for Christmas.

By: John Sass

I would rather get a new pet than a toy. I can play

with it after school. It can last a long time. You can teach it. They are nice to people. Dogs hunt mice and rabbits. I would like to snuggle with it. Toys could break. Toys could get lost. I can not wait for Christmas.

By: Hunter Goslar

I would rather wrap the Christmas presents than decorate the Christmas tree. I would like to get to look at my sister's Christmas presents before Christmas. I like to add ribbons and fancy wrapping presents more than decorating the tree. I think that it would be an amazing experience.

By: Violet Petersen

I would rather watch the Grinch than the Polar Express. My favorite part is when the Grinch steals Christmas. I like Cindy Lou Hoo. She has plaits in her hair. Plaits are hair that is braided up then put in a bow. I don't like the Polar Express because it is too serious of a movie.

By: Myla Cloud

I would rather wear a santa costume than an elf costume. I can do the griddy dance when I'm wearing the costume. I don't like the Elf movie. I do like the Bad Santa movie. I like Christmas.

By: Johnathon Brenden

MVAO Elementary - Mrs. Renner's....

## Fourth Grade: Christmas Writings

My Christmas tree has demo cars as ornaments. I am making a pattern on the tree: blue, black, brown. Those are the colors of the demo team, "Octane." The lights on my tree are bright and beautiful blue. It is very pretty. Merry Christmas to all.

- Connor Neubaum

My Christmas tree is yellow and red. It is a football team! They are really good. They are the best! My tree is decorated so beautifully as the Kansas City Chiefs NFL team.

Merry Christmas!

- Daxton Kafton

This is what my Christmas tree is decorated like: black, 22, yellow, Hawk-eyes, navy, orange, Clark, Fever, WNBA, college, amazing, basketball, fun, Indiana, Iowa. My tree is the best. It has bright lights all around it. The ornaments are beautiful. I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas!

- Vivian Scholl

I made a Buffalo Bills Christmas tree! The colors that I used are blue, red and white. Then, I put ornaments all over the big tree. They all represent my favorite NFL team, so it is perfect for me.

- Weston Scheer

Have you ever seen a tall and bright Christmas tree? Plus, it's very colorful. Mine is decorated as the Vikings team! The Vikings are my very favorite football team in the NFL. That is why I decorated my Christmas tree using all purple and yellow ornaments. Merry Christmas and Go Vikings!

- Jett Goslar

My Christmas tree that I designed is decorated with Minnesota Vikings colors! I wanted to pick the Vikings because my family is going to the Vikings NFL game in a couple of weeks. The tree has purple and yellow ornaments and bright lights. At the very top is a big star! Merry Christmas, everyone!

- Graham LeFebvre

Have you ever seen a stiff Iowa State Christmas tree? "Jingle bells! Jingle bells! That is what we sing when we decorate. My favorite team is Iowa State! That's why we decorate an ISU tree so beautifully! The lights are bright and strung all over the big tree. All the ornaments are red and yellow. Merry Christmas!

- Hank Hamman

Have you ever seen a bright and tall Iowa State Christmas tree? If you haven't, here is one! My tree is decorated with red and yellow ornaments. The lights are so bright! There are presents under my Christmas tree that are wrapped in ISU wrapping paper. I am so excited for



Christmas this year. Merry Christmas!

- Thatcher Blake

Explaining What Kenzii's Tree Looks Like

Have you ever seen such a shiny, sparkly, San Francisco 49ers Christmas tree!? My tree has

lots of very tasty candy canes. My

tree is a real one from outside! "Ouch!" My tree is very pokey. "It hurts!" My tree is very festive. Merry Christmas to all!

- Makenzii Mayo

Merry Christmas! We love our Christmas tree. It is very colorful, tall, pokey, and festive in my living room. I'm very joyful every Christmas because our dog's birthday is on Christmas Eve! Our tree is very bright red and blue. I really like Christmas! It is decorative, festive and very lovely. Christmas is my favorite holiday. I love Santa and the book we read every Christmas Eve. MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

- Elizabeth Zawodny

My Christmas tree is very beautiful! My Christmas tree is tall and green. It is bright and pretty. My Christmas tree has presents under it. When I put up my Christmas tree, it was joyful. My Christmas tree is very pokey and stiff. Merry Christmas!

- Miles Maynard

Have you ever seen a decorative, tall and bright Christmas tree? I've seen one before! You can see colorful sparkly Christmas trees wherever you go. You can see them anywhere. Go find one... My tree is maroon, green and orange. I love those colors together. I'm sure everyone will have a very Merry Christmas this year!

Jenikka Schaffer

"Jingle Bells! Jingle Bells!" That's what we sing when we decorate the tall,

bright Christmas tree at our own house. Have you ever seen such a beautiful, stiff, big white tree? Our tree is mostly dark green and light blue. The lights are bright and multi-colored. I am so excited for Christmas! Merry Christmas to all.

- Bodie Uhl

Have you ever seen such a bright and colorful tree? It's so pretty, peaceful, and so full of spirit! It's such a gorgeous and joyful tree. It is exciting and pleasant to be around. My tree is beautiful! My tree is always full of the Christmas spirit. My tree always looks so happy! I love it.

Merry Christmas!

- Hazel Racobs

Have you ever seen a cat Christmas tree? My tree that I created is orange, black and grey. The lights are grey and black cat heads that glow! The ornaments are cat toys. There is a setting on the tree that can make, "Meow!" sounds. The tree can also be used as a scratching pole for cats. Merry Christmas to all!

- Logan Jones

I decorated a large green Christmas tree! The lights are green, orange, red, yellow and blue. There are circle ornaments on it with deer on them. My tree also has my basketball medals on it to show everyone. I love my Christmas tree. Merry Christmas!

- Ben LeFebvre

Merry Christmas! Hope you have a happy holiday. My Christmas tree is decorated to look like red, hot FIRE! There are flames on it, but the tree will not burn to ashes. It is just an illusion. The colors are red, orange, yellow, white and blue (the hottest flame). The "fire" acts like the lights. My tree is so bright and beautiful. There are not any ornaments on it. It is so much fun to look at.

- Jason Perdeu

Schleswig Elementary - Mrs. Petersen's....

## Fourth Grade: Dear Santa Letters

They could ask Santa for something for everyone in their family BUT themselves.

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa. How are things going in the workshop? Here are a couple of things I want to tell you about my family members for Christmas presents. My Mom wants a punching bag so she can get all of her anger out. My Dad wants a new gun because he likes to shoot them. My brother, Gavin, wants an antenna for the radio on his truck. My brother, Evan, wants a new square

baler because the one he has is currently not working. My dog wants another ball to play fetch with because her sharp teeth ruin everything. Thank you. Goodbye, Santa

Yur Friend, Jace Bral

Dear Santa,

Hi, How are things going at the North Pole? How are the reindeer and the elves? Are they doing well? If you can, my Dad would like a John Deere toy because he farms. My Mom would like cooking stuff because she likes to cook. My siblings would like sports stuff because

my family goes to a lot of sporting activities. It was nice talking to you, Santa.

Your Friend,  
Kyler Bruhn

Dear Santa,

Hello. How are you doing? I was wondering if you could get some of these gifts for my family. My sister would like another Lego set to build. She loves to build things. For my Mom, she wants the house all the way clean. She doesn't like when the house is dirty. My Dad would like it if he could have his bits and pieces. It is a kind of gum he likes to chew on sometimes. For my cat, Shapes, she needs some new cat toys to play with because she has nothing to play with. Thank you for reading this Santa.

Your Friend,  
Haley Ernst

Mrs. Petersen's  
Dear Santa continue  
on Page 13

As we count down to the New Year, we're also counting our blessings and your kind patronage is at the top of the list! For all the goodwill and friendship you've shown us, we will always be grateful, and we wish each and every one of you a wonderful year.

**Tuesday, December 31: Closing at 3 p.m.**  
(All 2024 business must be received by 1 p.m. on December 31).

**Wednesday, January 1: Closed**

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—And to all of you who have given us much cause for celebration this year!

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The Charter Oak-Ute third grade class sang "Frosty the Snowman," "It's Time to Get Ready for Christmas," and "Pat a Pan" during the winter concert.



...Mrs. Friedrichsen's Letters to Santa

Mrs. Friedrichsen's Letters to Santa continued from Page 9

celebrate my birthday on Christmas and I get more gifts!

Your friend, Dennis

Dear Santa,

My name is Paw. I am in 3rd grade and am 8 yrs old. I live in Schleswig. How is Mrs. Claus and the reindeer? This is what I would like for Christmas: an Iphone and any type of toy you would like to give me. I would also love a real axolotl because that would be legendary!

Your friend, Paw

Dear Santa,

My name is Stratton. I am 9 years old and a 3rd grade student at Schleswig School. How is Mrs. Claus and the reindeer?

I heard you would like suggestions for my Christmas gift. I would like an axolotl. Thank you!

Your friend, Stratton

Dear Santa,

My name is Charlotte. I am in 3rd grade. I go to Schleswig School. I am 9 years old. What are all the names of your reindeer? I hear you would like to know what I want for Christmas. I would like Rock 'em Sock 'em and a Zelda hand book. Thank you!

Your friend, Charlotte

Dear Santa,

My name is Hayden. I am 8 years old. Can I feed the reindeer? For Christmas, I would like a game, any game, please.

Your friend, Hayden

Dear Santa,

My name is John and I go to Schleswig school. I live in Iowa. I love my presents that you give me. I would like Nerf guns. I'd like about 6 of them please, Santa. I would also like some candy. I hope you will give me presents. Have a good day Santa!

Love, Johnny

Dear Santa,

My name is Kian. I am a 3rd grade student at Schleswig School. How is Rudolph and the reindeer? This is what I would like for Christmas: A new collar for my cat, a new charger, and a new kitten. Thank you!

Your buddy, Kian

Dear Santa,

My name is Dennis. I am 8 years old. I'm a 3rd grade student and I go to Schleswig school. How is Mrs. Claus doing? For Christmas, I would like a PS5 and \$100. I get to

Dear Santa,

My name is Hudson. I am a 3rd grade student at Schleswig school. How are you doing? I like the elf that you got me. He does some wild things. I am 8 years old. How old are you? I would like a Jey Uso wrestler, W.W.E. toys, R.C. cars and flexible wrestlers.

Your friend, Hudson.

Dear Santa,

My name is River and I am in 3rd grade. I want an Iphone 15 for Christmas. Do you live at the North Pole?

I love you, River

Charter Oak-Ute Elementary - Ms. Ransom's...  
**Third Grade: Santa Letters**

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas! What I want for Christmas is a lot of snow, LED lights, a real baby kitten, and I would also like to see my baby kittens that I gave away. I would like a real Christmas tree for Christmas this year too!

From, Alexa Gran

Dear Santa,

I have been good and bad this year. I want College Football 25, and The Show 24. I want a mini dirt bike and a gel blaster. Please tell me how many degrees it will be on Christmas Eve night. I live in Charter Oak, Iowa.

Sincerely, Sam Castillo

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas! I have been pretty good this year. I would like a new bike because mine is too small for me to ride. I will set out milk and cookies for you,

and carrots for your reindeer. Can your elves talk to you? I hope you have a safe trip.

Love, Quinn Hadden

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy this year. For Christmas I would like Red Redemption 3 and 4. I would also like a mini dirt bike and a gel blaster. I live in Charter Oak. Merry Christmas!

Love, Gage Mead

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas, Santa! For Christmas I want a toy semi, a semi game for my Nintendo Switch, a football, a dirt bike, and Fortnite. I also want a gel blaster. What kind of cookies do you like? I live in Charter Oak, Iowa.

From, Brayton Lee

Dear Santa,

I have been a really good girl. Will you please bring me some goose eggs and a magic rabbit? Do the reindeer help you build toy cars? I'm leaving you milk and cookies.

Love, Willow Raymie

Dear Santa,

I was a good girl this year. What I would like for Christmas is a Barbie boat, a water bottle, and more books. I also want stuff for my baby doll. I live in Charter Oak. I will leave cookies and milk. How are your elves doing? I love you, Santa Claus!

Love, Addison Wilcox

Dear Santa,

Can I please have cat toys for my cats? I want lots of toys for myself.

From, Annabeth Tuttle

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy

this year. I want a mini dirt bike and a remote control shark that can go in the water. I would also like a new nerf gun and a gel blaster. I live by the water tower in Charter Oak, Iowa.

Love, Brody Hudson

Dear Santa,

I've been kind of good this year, but anyway, I want a remote control tank that can shoot BB gun bullets, pellet gun bullets, a pellet gun, a gel blaster, and an Owala water bottle. How do you know my password for my Xbox?

Love, Finn Green

Dear Santa,

For Christmas this year I would like toys and books. I will leave you milk and cookies. I have been a little naughty, but I hope you will still bring me toys. I live in Charter Oak, Iowa.

Love, Liam Loftis

Charter Oak-Ute Elementary - Mrs. Maynard's...

**Third Grade: Santa Letters**

Dear Santa,

I wish to make our teacher more happy and I would like a simple toy like a plushie.

Love, Endry

Dear Santa,

My name is Ivory. For Christmas I want a VR head set. I also want cloud slime and kinetic sand. I would also like a toy cat and a new water bottle.

Love, Ivory

Dear Santa,

I want a VR2. I also want a Lego boat set and a soccer set.

Love, Toby

Dear Santa,

I want a cat and that is all I want.

From, Lizzy

Dear Santa,

My name is Travon. I have been good this year. I want a VR head set.

Love, Travon

Dear Santa,

My name is Jacob. I want a bike and I want magna tiles.

Love, Jacob

Dear Santa,

I want Luna the Robot. I also want new barbie clothes and new Nike

shoes. I really want Luna to have an outfit also, so can you get her some clothes, please?

Love, Vera

Dear Santa,

I am Charlotte Staley. I am in 3rd grade. I love to read so I want a Willow Tree Wood Adventure book. I also want teal putty that smells really good. I also want fake Christmas nails. I also want a makeup bag with makeup in it. I also want my mom to never cry. I hate it when she cries. It makes me sad.

Sincerely, Charlotte

Dear Santa,

My name is Britzaidy and my baby sister is Brittany. I am in 3rd grade and I want boots for Christmas. I want a big big big Santa with a teddy heart holding my baby sister.

Love, Britzaidy

Dear Santa,

My name is River and I am in 3rd grade. I want an Iphone 15 for Christmas. Do you live at the North Pole?

I love you, River

MVAO Elementary - Mrs. Larson's....

**Fourth Grade: Christmas Writings**

Five little reindeer playing in the snow

The first one said, "Oh, I need a show"

The second one said, "Well I'm hungry."

The third one said "I have a hurt tummy"

The fourth one said, "I am really craving pie"

The fifth one said, "Now it's time to say goodbye!"

Then clomp went their hooves and the snow fell white as the five little reindeer flew out of sight.

Khyla Burke

The Magic Snowman  
The magic snowman started to drip. He really needed it to snow. So he slowly went to a snowy spot. But a few minutes later he started to melt again. Then he ran into a bad goblin. The goblin said "you can pass if you give

me your carrot nose" so the snowman gave him his nose. He was able to pass. "OH NO" said the snowman, my arm is gone! He broke a tree branch off, "HEY, GIVE THAT BACK" said the magical tree. "NO" said the snowman "I need it." "FINE" said the tree with a mad sigh. "But if you need help go to the North Pole and Santa will help you," said the tree. "Thank you," the snowman said. So he went to the North Pole to get to Santa. Oh no I lost my buttons, I have to keep going. He got to the shop and got Santa. "Oh, you poor thing" said Santa. "Come with me". Santa fixed him up and now the snowman lives in the North Pole.

Warren Coll

Crash! Bang! Thump! Alex jumped out of bed! He looked out the door. What he saw amazed him. He saw an obstacle course. He still heard the thumping. He figured it was Santa. It was midnight after all. First he ran through the candy canes. Then he went over the huge marshmallows. Last he dodged the presents. Alex thought he was done but then turned left and saw more. Alex climbed the cookie mountain. He might have taken one. Then what he saw amazed him. He saw Santa! But then he disappeared. Oh well, he thought. He looked right. "At Least I got presents!"

Morgan Comes

Christmas is decorations and Christmas trees.  
Christmas is presents

and snow.

Christmas is cinnamon and peppermint

Christmas is pie and candy

Christmas is music and talking

Christmas is family, presents and Jesus

Avery Golden

Christmas is family and food

Christmas is snow and presents

Christmas is candles and crescent rolls

Christmas is ham and turkey

Christmas is songs and talking

Christmas is Jesus and family

Drew Gotto

Mrs. Larson's Christmas Writings continue on Page 14

Sending you our gratitude and brightest wishes for a stellar year!

Happy New Year

Novus Ag  
465 Railroad Ave  
Charter Oak, IA  
712-678-3366



DEDICATED TO RESOLUTIONS FOR TOMORROW

We hope you're looking forward to the year ahead. Wherever it takes you, know that we will be by your side. Trust in Tomorrow.®

Farmers Mutual Insurance Association

106 2nd Street | Schleswig, IA  
Phone: 712-676-3359



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MVAO Elementary - Mrs. Dougherty's....

## Fifth Grade: Christmas Writings

I like Christmas because I get to open presents and spend time with my family. I like to play board games with my family on Christmas Eve. I get to open one early present. I like how long our school Christmas break is. I also like the food on Christmas and setting up our Christmas tree and decorations.

Charlotte Adkins

I love opening presents on Christmas! The rip sounds are so satisfying, but I feel bad about tearing open the perfectly wrapped presents. Stockings are just as good as presents because of the CANDY! Each year, I need to wait for everyone to get up, so I just watch Youtube videos until they are awake. Opening presents and stockings is my favorite part of Christmas.

Leo Dirksen

My favorite holiday is Christmas because of the food and snow. In the snow, I like to go sledding and make snowmen. I also like opening presents and stockings. My family watches the movie Elf every year. It is funny and we all like it. My family and I go to my grandparents' house every year. In my opinion, Christmas isn't just about presents and stockings. It is about spending time together and being able to talk and see people. I love being with my family and being able to see them every year!

Allie Kaufman

My favorite Christmas memory is when I go to my grandma's house. I like going to my grandma's because of the presents and family. One time, I got a VR headset and a Switch. Those are two of my favorite things. I also get stockings that are so big and have a lot of stuff. My family and I go 8 hours to get to my grandma's house. My family gives me money so I can buy stuff. I love Christmas and I wish it was all the time.

Bentley Kaufman

My favorite Christmas memory is when I play cards with my family. I also like getting good presents like a VR headset. I like playing in the snow, and building a tunnel with my sister in the snow pile that the plow leaves for us. When it is my turn to open a present, I get so excited!

Micah Kovarna

My favorite Christmas memory was a shocker from Santa. It was December and it was taco salad for supper, and my dad was washing the lettuce. Then about 30 seconds later, Santa barged into the door! My dad dropped the lettuce and the lettuce went everywhere and the bowl broke! All of my family was screaming but I was laughing. In the end, my little sister was crying but we all got suckers and we ended up eating Casey's pizza.

Rylan LeFebvre

Mrs. Dougherty's Christmas Writings continue on Page 14



PHOTO BY DORIS JEPSEN

The MVAO (Mapleton Center) Elementary performed "The Best Gifts" for their winter concert on Dec. 16.

MVAO Elementary - Mrs. Kafton's....

## Fifth Grade-What are your favorite Christmas traditions/memories?

This is my favorite December tradition. On my birthday, my dad will find a way to smash cake in my face. If I try to be smart he will come around the corner and smash a pie in my face. Sometimes he will sneak up behind me and smash my face in the cake. If I have a strategy he will spray me with whipped cream. Then we will open presents. Then we have holiday fun!

Jaymison Evans

My favorite Christmas tradition is to open presents and have fun. I love to play with the stuff that I get. I love to have fun and be happy. I'm really excited to open presents. I wake up and get my parents up and then we open presents. When we all go to bed on Christmas Eve, I dream about opening up presents.

Caleb Stoner

One time on Christmas morning when I woke up it was such a crazy day. I woke up my parents quick-

ly and we opened presents. Wrapping paper was all over our house. My presents were so cool! I played with them for an hour. Then, I hopped on Fortnite. I won a game that day.

Wyatt Jones

My favorite Christmas tradition is when my family and I go to my Grandma's house in Ames. I like this tradition because we go there on Christmas Eve, which is my birthday! Another reason I like this tradition is because we don't get to see my Grandparents that much. We also get to see my cousins from Las Vegas and my other cousins from Georgia. My family and I also get to go to my other Grandparent's house near the new year. My siblings and I love going sledding when there is enough snow. My mom and I also make Christmas cookies while listening to Christmas music. When we put our Christmas tree up my cat always climbs in it and jumps out and it makes all the ornaments fall off. Overall, I have a lot of Christmas traditions that I love.

Ashley Brown

My favorite Christmas traditions are when we make cookies for Santa and carrots for the reindeer and cheese for his little helper mouse. My next favorite is when we watch a Christmas movie as a family. The movie we all watch is Krampus. It is a scary-ish Christmas movie. We all watch it and sleep on the living room floor. We have popcorn, hot chocolate, and m&m's in our popcorn. My next favorite family tradition is when we wake up we all try to guess what we got in our presents and stockings. My next favorite family tradition is when we go to my Grandma's house and open more presents. We get to have Christmas dinner with my grandma and my grandpa. My last favorite family tradition is going to my Grandma's

and seeing my family and baby cousins. We have turkey, pumpkin pie, stuffing, and mashed potatoes. Pumpkin pie and turkey are my favorite food to have on Christmas.

Aurora Ingram

My favorite Christmas memory was when I was at my Dad's house. My step mom makes us sleep upstairs so we don't stay up all night just to see Santa. Because my sister and I would probably stay up if she didn't make us sleep upstairs. We did it once, but we fell asleep because we got too tired. My mom yelled at us in the morning. So now we sleep upstairs waiting for Santa to arrive.

Taylynn Comstock

The one thing that I do for Christmas is have a Christmas meal. The meal includes jello. My favorite part of the meal is the ham! I shove big pieces in my mouth. I put salt on it to have more flavor. People in my family also eat with me. Some of my nieces and nephews come to eat with me too. After the meal, we get to play downstairs and watch tv.

Xavier Schaffer

My favorite Christmas tradition is when my Grandma and Grandpa come to my house on Christmas day. We open Christmas presents from our parents and then from Santa. My whole family eats breakfast together. Then we play board games and card games. On Christmas Eve, we put cookies and milk out for Santa. We also put carrots for the reindeer. That's my family's tradition.

Braeley Gray

My favorite Christmas family tradition is when we all get matching pajamas. The pajamas are so comfortable! Most of the time we take photos near the perfectly decorated Christmas tree. Christmas and the ornaments on

the Christmas tree are so pretty! We also make our own ornaments every year. We give the ornaments to our family members and they love them! Sometimes, we go to Kansas City for Christmas. Usually we go to my Grandmas and Grandpa's house almost every year. I help cook the food and everything! My grandpa calls me and my brothers "squirrels" even though he is the "squirrel" he gives us an acorn every christmas. It is sometimes funny but the food is amazing!

Eleanor Tirevold

My favorite Christmas memory was at my house. We were opening our presents when I opened the one gift. It was a hoverboard and I rode it all over. Then my dad fell off of it. It was so funny. I thought it was something different. I rode it a lot it was fun. So I thanked my mom and dad for the cool gift.

Lily Brenden

My favorite Christmas memory was when I got my VR in 2023. My friends and I played it a lot. We played Gods of Gravity, Gorilla Tag, and Meta Horizons. If you get a VR word of advice, play in an open room so you don't get hurt. It's not really for adults because they get motion sickness easily. Anyway, it was like 1 day before christmas that I got it. It was such a cool present. It's white and if you hit anything the mark is there forever. So it is a bit expensive but it's fun overall.

Wyatt Leitz

My favorite Christmas tradition is getting Chinese food the day before Christmas Eve. We call it Christmas Adam because Adam comes before Eve. It's my favorite because Chinese food tastes good. I always get the orange chicken. We go to Bamboo Village in Onawa. It tastes so good. I also really like chow mein too. On the way there I either play Roblox on my phone or I listen to Christmas music. That is my favorite Christmas tradition.

Joanna Gain

My favorite Christmas memory is when my parents surprised my sister and I with a vacation. First, we were opening our presents and they all had a vacation theme. Then we saw our elf Chris that held a sign that read "go to your parents closet". So we went to their closet, and when we did we saw suitcases. We brought them to the living room with so much confusion and excitement. Then our parents said, "we're going on a vacation!" We bursted out with excitement. We opened our suitcases and there was so much cute stuff. We spent the rest of the day listening to Christmas music, watching Christmas movies, and playing with all of our stuff.

Schalee Kansdrader

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# Wishing You 365 DAYS OF HAPPY

From the stroke of midnight to next New Year's Eve, we hope the year ahead is filled with all the things that make you happiest.

Friends and customers like you make us so glad to be a part of this community, and we're thankful for your generous support. We look forward to seeing you again soon in 2025!

## Happy New Year, Everyone!

The Mapleton Press office will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1st. Deadline for the January 2nd issue is Friday, December 27th by Noon.

**The Mapleton PRESS**

502 Main Street, P.O. Box 187 • Mapleton, Iowa  
712-881-1101 • www.mapletonpress.com

*Happy New Year!*

**Wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year!**

Lobby & Drive-Up Hours		Transaction Cut-Off
December 31	Open until 3:00 pm*	Lobby & Drive-Up: 3:00 pm* Mobile Deposit: 3:00 pm <small>(to be included in 2024 business)</small>
January 1	CLOSED	

\*The following offices will keep their current closing and transaction cut-off times: Arthur, Cushing, Kiron & Lytton

# 2025

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...Mrs. Petersen's Dear Santa Letters

**Mrs. Petersen's Dear Santa Letters**  
continued from Page 13

Dear Santa,  
Hi, how are you doing? How is Mrs. Claus? How are the elves at night and the reindeer? I was wondering if you could get my family this stuff. My Mom would like matching but not dangly earrings with me because she thinks we will look cute in all our matching stuff. My Dad would want an animal target so he and I can practice shooting our bows together. My brother would want a new guitar because he loves music. My dogs would want a new bone because they love bones. My cats will want a new toy because they love playing. Thank you. Merry Christmas!  
Your Friend,  
Larynn Friedrichsen

Dear Santa,  
Hello. How are the elves, reindeer, and talking snowmen? This is what my family wants for Christmas! My mom would like new clothes because she's been begging for new clothes. My dad would like tools and stuff for his work because he's been working hard and been trying to save up money to buy new tools. My older brother, Mario, would like some Pokemon cards because he has been asking my dad for them. My little brother, Xavian, would like Number Block stuffies and stuffed animals. My baby sister would like a baby blanket and bottles because she has been crying in the middle of the night. My dog, named Milton, wants a hot dog toy because he's been biting my bed sheets. My other dog, named Trixie, wants a dog plushie like her because she doesn't have any dog plushies. My other dog, named JJ, wants a bone, dog toys, and a dog bed because he's been sleeping outside. He has been teething badly. Thank you for reading this. MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
Your Friend,  
Amira Garcia

Dear Santa,  
Hi. How is everything going at the workshop? This is what my family wants for Christmas. My dad wants a cat fishing pole so we can go cat fishing. My mom wants shades for our windows. My sister wants a new phone because she broke hers. My dog wants a new toy but only if she is good. My brother wants new cologne because he is very stinky. Bye bye. Also, have a Merry Christmas.  
Your Friend,  
Nash Heiden

Dear Santa,  
Hello, how is it going at the North Pole? I want to ask you if you could get this stuff for my family. My Dad wants a Star Wars figure because he loves Star Wars. My Mom wants a blender for Christmas because she broke hers. My brother wants a transformer because he has a lot of them. My puppy, May, wants a bone to chew on. My dog, Maverick, wants a tug toy because he has a lot of energy. My

dog, Molle, wants a bone too. I have to go but have a great Christmas and tell the elves, "Hi." Thank you.  
Your Friend,  
Ava Jacobson

Dear Santa,  
Hello, how is it going? How are the elves? I was wondering if you could get my family some presents. For my brother, could you get him some Sprunki toys because he is really into them? Also, could you get my mom a new purse that says world best mom because she is the best? For my dad, could you give my dad the parts to fix anything because he needs parts? My dogs could use two bones because they are the best. For my cats, could you get them new scratching posts because they are good? For my birth Mom, could you get her a new car and a letter saying it is from me? For my siblings, give them a hug from their brother. For my birth dad, could you get him a cup that says 2nd best dad? Thank you, Santa.  
Your Friend,  
Raymond Jepsen

Dear Santa,  
Hello, Santa. Merry Christmas! How are things going in the workshop? I want you to get my family some presents! For my Mom, I want to take my Mother to an Eminem concert because she has always wanted to go to one. That is her favorite rapper. For my Dad, I want you to get him a new sawzall because his old one broke. For my dog, I want you to get my dog a new dog launcher because I broke her other one. I want you to get my cat, Trixie, a wheel because she is getting a little chunky. For my auntie, I want you to get her a puppy because her old one passed away. Merry Christmas!  
Your Friend,  
Karsen Keim

Dear Santa,  
Hello. How is your year going? For Christmas, I am writing you this letter for my family so that way you know what to get them. This year, my mom would want a new TV because the TV has been crackling. My brother would want lots of dinosaurs because he loves dinosaurs. My sister wants a lot of Barbies for Christmas because she loves playing with them. My step dad would want another dog for Christmas because our family loves puppies. My step mom would want some pots and pans because lots of them are cracking. My real dad wants some more tools for Christmas so that way he can work on our boat this summer. My little sister would probably want some more pajamas because when she is sleeping, she starts to cry when she is cold. My three dogs would definitely want some more dog toys for Christmas because they like to bite things. Thank you for reading this letter for Christmas.  
Your Friend,  
Ablynn Kunkel

Dear Santa,  
Hello. Santa, how are you doing? How is Mrs. Claus doing? So I have a question: how do you eat all those cookies and milk in one night? Anyway, I would like to tell you what I think my family members would like for Christmas. So for starters, I think my dad would like a Meta Quest 3s because we could play together when I don't want to play my PS4. Next, I think my cat would like a house with an evil underground cave for evil operations because she is very evil. My mom would probably want a new house because she has been looking at houses on her computer. Last, my brother would probably want Call Of Duty Black Ops 6 because he plays the Call Of Duty franchise a lot. Thank you for reading this.  
Sincerely,  
Cameron Lidgett

Dear Santa,  
Hello, Santa. Merry Christmas! How are you? How are the elves? I wanted to ask if you could get these things for my family for Christmas. My dad would like stuff for hunting because he always wants to go hunting. My Mom would like a new phone because she is always on her phone doing something. My brother, Jack, would like stuff for gaming like a new headset because he is always playing Fortnite with everybody. My sister, Lily, would like nail stuff or makeup because she is doing her nails and she is always putting on makeup. My brother, Aiden, would like something for his truck because he is always talking about his truck. My sister, Rylie, would like some K-Pop stuff because she loves listening to their songs. I think my pets: Theo, Wilson, and Hazel, would just like some toys or treats. Thank you for your time, Santa. Merry Christmas!  
Your Friend,  
Emma March

Dear Santa,  
Hello, how are you doing? For this Christmas, I want my family to get some presents too! For my dad, I want him to get Batman PJ pants because his are ripped and he's Batman. For my mom, I would love to get her fluffy socks because she wants some and steals mine. My oldest brother, Pedro Jr., I would like for him to get a raise in money because he's trying to save money. My brother, Edwardo, would love to get a Legos set because he's always wanted one since he was little. Kiwi, my bird, she would love some new bird toys because she loves attention. Thank you for reading this.  
Sincerely,  
Alison Mena

Dear Santa,  
Hello, how are you doing? Is it fun in the North Pole? I want to tell you what my family wants

for Christmas. My 2 older brothers each want a dirt bike because they are fun to ride. My Dad wants a Dyno because then he can see how fast his car can go. My Mom wants a green car because it is her favorite color. My little brother wants a Blocks Flyer because he wants to do tricks on it. My cat probably wants a house with all the food you can get because he will not stop eating. Thank you for buying these things and taking time to talk with me.  
Your Friend,  
Korbin Palmer

Dear Santa,  
Hello, how are you doing? For Christmas, I am writing to you a letter of things my family wants. First off, I will start with my mom. For Christmas, I think she wants a dog because she has been saying how great it would be to have a dog. Now my Dad. I think my Dad would want something from Star Wars like a bobble head or mug. My brothers turn, now. My brother says it's not fair that we all have something like a phone or a tablet, even though he has a watch. So he is fine with a tablet or phone. Last but not least, my cat. For Christmas, my cat would want something to scratch on so a scratch post would be perfect! Thank you for reading this letter!  
Sincerely,  
Cristine Velasquez

Dear Santa,  
Hi! I wrote down what I think my family wants for Christmas. My Dad wants to be able to fix or create anything because he fixes everything that's broken. My Mom wants a can crusher because she likes to crush cans (I think). My brother wants unlimited video games because he loves video games. I love my family very much so I have a wish for all of my family members to have a great next year! Thanks for listening!  
Sincerely,  
Kimber Rose Wood

Dear Santa,  
Hi Santa. How are the reindeer doing? I have some things my family would like for Christmas. My mom wants a diamond ring because she has asked my dad so many times for one. My dad wants a back itcher because he always wants me to itch his back. My brother, Zander, wants a Lego set because he always asks for one. My other brother, Zayden, wants a rainbow turtle. My half brother, Matthew, wants 100 pairs of shorts because he always runs out. My cat, Snowflake, wants a toy because she always bites me. Thank you for listening.  
Your Friend,  
Holly Ziegmann



Danbury Catholic -  
Ms. Brenner's....  
**Fifth Grade:  
What I Love  
About Christmas**

Garrett A.  
I like how we get to put up the Christmas tree. I like to give gifts to my family. I like going to church on Christmas Eve. I like opening gifts on Christmas. I like spending time with my friends.

Sadie C.  
In this paragraph I will write what I love about Christmas. I like turning music on and putting lights up around the house with my friends. Another thing I love doing is shopping for gifts to give to my friends. These things make me really feel Christmas spirit and I just always have enjoyed them.

William D.  
What I like about Christmas is snow, gifts, and decorations. I like snow because it is fun to sled in it. I like gifts because you give and receive them. I like decorations because they are fun to set up and enjoy them. Also spending time with family is fun.

Charlotte  
Some things I love about Christmas is unwrapping presents. And opening stockings with my family. Also I like going to church with my family. Sometimes we all have Christmas supper at my Grandma's house. Something else we like do is watch Christmas movies at night. Me and my mom and sister all make cookies and eating them when we are watching movies to.

Emily F.  
What I love about Christmas is that you get to spend time with you family. I also love when we go to church on Christmas. I love going to church because you can learn more about Jesus. I love it when

my elf comes because he is always so funny and crazy. I love Christmas because we get a break off school

Ana E.  
What I love about Christmas is that it is Jesus' birthday. I also like to spend time with family and friends. I love to open presents and bake cookies on Christmas Eve. Another thing I love is decorating the Christmas tree. Every Christmas for breakfast we have cinnamon rolls. I love to find our elf on the shelf every morning. I also love to play in the snow.

Ellena D.  
One thing I love about Christmas is spending time with my family. If its baking cookies or opening gifts or maybe watching movies, it's all fun. Another thing I like about Christmas is the snow, you can go outside and enjoy the snow. Then, come in and drink hot chocolate. Overall my favorite part of Christmas is the activities that come with it.

Trenten S.  
I like going to church. I like celebrating Jesus's birthday. I like being with family. I like the food. I like opening presents.

Annika D.  
Some things I love about Christmas is that I get to spend time with family. I also love how we all get up so early and right away get excited because of presents! But of course, Christmas is not

just only about the presents, it's about celebrating Jesus' birthday. Some ways to do that is by going to church or something like that. But my most favorite is having fun with family.



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Happiness,  
& All Best Wishes for the New Year**

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**celebrate!**  
Wishing you a very cool new year. Thanks for your generous support in 2024.

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# CHARTER OAK-UTE winter concert



The Charter Oak-Ute Junior High Choir sang "Winter Wonderland," and "Hallelujah."

PHOTOS BY DORIS JEPSEN



The Charter Oak-Ute fourth grade class sang "Peace Round," "Once Upon a Christmas-time," and "Joy to the World" during the winter concert.



The Charter Oak-Ute fifth grade music students sang "Feliz Navidad."



The Charter Oak-Ute fifth grade band students performed "Mozart Melody," "Jingle Bells," and "We Will Rock You."

## ...Mrs. Dougherty's Christmas Writings

### Mrs. Dougherty's Christmas Writings continued from Page 12

My favorite Christmas tradition is when we set up for Christmas and for Santa. We put up Christmas lights and blow ups outside. I also put up stockings. We wrap presents, and set up the Christmas tree. We put out cookies and milk for Santa. I like setting up for Christmas.  
Charlie Riesberg

My favorite Christmas memory is playing games and opening presents with my family. I love hanging out with my family on Christmas. My favorite tradition is to eat one piece of chocolate until Christmas. On Christmas day, I go outside and play in the snow. I really enjoy the holiday and my traditions.  
Jase Schoenherr

I like Christmas because I enjoy opening the gifts. I like playing Fortnite and basketball with my cousin. I also like eating food and playing in the snow. I like

to wear nice clothes and see the decorations and see family. I love seeing my great grandma. I like Christmas because it is so fun!  
Hayden Spaulding

I have one favorite Christmas tradition and it is so fun! Since my birthday is really close to Christmas, we go to Drop Zone every year. When we go to Drop Zone, we play games. The fun thing is that I get to bring 3 friends. Usually, I bring Jase, Micah and Ashley. We get pizza and smoothies there, too! I always have so much fun the whole day! It's my favorite Christmas tradition.  
Sophia VanHouten

My favorite thing to do on Christmas is to try to sneak my phone into my room so I can play on it. I have to wait until my mom wakes up so I can wake up everyone else. When everyone is awake, we all open presents together, in order. I like to look at the presents and see who got what.  
Kynzlie Zimmerman

## ...Mrs. Larson's Christmas Writings

### Mrs. Larson's Christmas Writings continued from Page 11

The Christmas Present  
AS Samantha picked up her Christmas present it began to shake. There was a calf in the box. The calf got out of the box and was in her house Christmas morning. She had to catch it but how? She decided she would jump on it, she did and then took it to the pasture. It knocked down the toy 8400. When Samantha got back in the house she had to clean all day, then he asked Santa for a new calf, but outside..  
Austin Jensen

Five little reindeer playing in the snow,  
The first one said, "Let's go to the winter show"  
The second one said "Let's watch the birds sing"  
The third one said "I can hear the bells ding"  
The fourth one said "Can you see the lights shine?"  
The fifth one said "I'm ready to shine through my fine!"  
Then clomp went their hooves and the snow fell white as the five little reindeer flew out of sight.  
Layla Kuehn

Five little reindeer playing in the snow  
The first one said, "Where should we go?"  
The second one said "It's too cold for me!"  
The third one said, "I can't see!"  
The fourth one said, "I want a bow"  
The fifth one said, "But it's time to go."  
Then clomp went their hooves and the snow fell white as the five little rein-

deer flew out of sight.  
Katy Mcconeghey

Christmas is trees and colored bulbs  
Christmas is Christmas fudge and snowflakes  
Christmas is pine and candy canes  
Christmas is gingerbread and emperor cookies  
Christmas is bells and melting sugar  
Christmas is love, family, and friends  
Illona Moffat

Five little reindeer playing in the snow  
The first one said, "Oh, my nose can glow"  
The second one said, "It's time for bed"  
The third one said "Let's go ride a sled"  
The fourth one said, "It's time to fly"  
The fifth one said, "Oh my don't cry!"  
Then clomp went their hooves and the snow fell white as the five little reindeer flew out of sight.  
Brittlee Mullin

Christmas is food and presents  
Christmas is presents and babies  
Christmas is oreo fluff and food  
Christmas is pickles and drinks  
Christmas is humans and kids  
Christmas is food, presents, yummy, and hopefully Safe And Friendly.  
Drake Paulsen

Christmas is mom and me  
Christmas is paper and toys  
Christmas is cookies and peppermint  
Christmas is cinnamon and peppermint

Christmas is mom and me  
Christmas is mom, and family and dad  
Eastyn Reed

Christmas is trees and people  
Christmas is food and gifts  
Christmas is baked goods and trees  
Christmas is baked goods and chicken  
Christmas is people and shouting  
Christmas is family and God, the King of the world and Heaven.  
Ezra Schaffer

Five little reindeer playing in the snow  
The first one said, "I need a bow"  
The second one said, "Let's go to the North Pole."  
The third one said "Let's make a snowman and roll"  
The fourth one said, "Let's rock"  
The fifth one said, "Let's fly, flock!"  
Then clomp went their hooves and the snow fell white as the five little reindeer flew out of sight.  
Jax Schofield

This Is How Melody Saved Christmas  
Santa had an important job for Melody, to keep track of the magical candy cane. She said, "Yes!" When they got to Santa's workshop the elves needed help. The cheeky elf Sebastian grabbed the magical candy cane, and ran as fast as he could. He ran to the reindeer barn. Laughing because he knew that Melody was allergic to reindeer, elf that he is. Melody talked to the reindeer and explained that she was

allergic to reindeer and the reindeer kicked Sebastian out of the reindeer barn. Melody grabbed the magical candy cane. Santa caught her putting the magical candy cane away, so she explained that the cheeky elf Sebastian stole the magical candy cane. He was happy for her and mad at Sebastian. That is how Melody saved Christmas  
Addison Schrader

The Elf Sebastian  
The elf Sebastian ran as fast as he could with the magical candy cane wand. The elf's weakness was kryptonite, and a witch with a kryptonite wand was trying to get him. They were in a snow dimension. The witch had made the snow disappear. The witch was also trying to blow up the elves' houses. The magical candy cane wand wasn't working though. The elf finally got the wand to work by pushing a little button that had been stuck. The elf with the cane finally made the snow come back. He froze the witch and she shattered. Sebastian then went back to the North Pole to be with Santa, he had saved Christmas.  
Liam Wilson

Christmas is love and family  
Christmas is people and toys  
Christmas is cookies and candy  
Christmas is milk and hot cocoa  
Christmas is songs and wrapping paper  
Christmas is people and love  
Liam Witzel

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Notice of Election

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO THE TAXPAYERS AND AUTHORIZED VOTERS IN THE UPPER SOLDIER DRAINAGE DISTRICT. You are hereby notified that an election will be held Saturday, January 18, 2025 at the Ute City Hall in Ute, Iowa to elect one (1) Trustee, Division III for a term of three (3) years on the Upper Soldier Drainage District. POLLS WILL OPEN AT 9:00 O'CLOCK A.M. AND CLOSE AT 12:00 O'CLOCK NOON. If you cannot vote at the polls on election day, you may vote an absentee ballot, either by mail or in the Drainage Office at the Court House in Onawa, Iowa. If voting by mail, a request form acquired from the Drainage Office must be filled out and signed by the person requesting the ballot. The request must be notarized and then sent to the Monona County Drainage Office, 610 Iowa Avenue, Onawa, Iowa 51040 before a ballot can be mailed. s/Amy Borchardt-Sick Drainage Clerk MP12-26-24, 1-2-25

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO THE TAXPAYERS AND AUTHORIZED VOTERS IN THE SOLDIER VALLEY DRAINAGE DISTRICT. You are hereby notified that an election will be held Saturday, January 18, 2025 at the Moorhead Community Center in Moorhead, Iowa to elect one Trustee, Division III of the Soldier Valley Drainage District for a term of three (3) years. POLLS WILL OPEN AT 9:00 O'CLOCK A.M. AND CLOSE AT 12:00 O'CLOCK NOON. If you cannot vote at the polls on election day, you may vote an absentee ballot, either by mail or in the Drainage Office at the Court House in Onawa, Iowa. If voting by mail, a request form acquired from the Drainage Office must be filled out and signed by the person requesting the ballot. The request must be notarized and then sent to the Monona County Drainage Office, 610 Iowa Avenue, Onawa, Iowa 51040 before a ballot can be mailed. s/Amy Borchardt-Sick Drainage Clerk MP12-26-24, 1-2-25

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO THE TAXPAYERS AND AUTHORIZED VOTERS IN THE NAGEL DRAINAGE DISTRICT. You are hereby notified that an election will be held Saturday, January 18, 2025 at the Rodney City Hall, 219 Main Street, Rodney, Iowa to elect one Trustee, for a term of three (3) years for the Nagel Drainage District. POLLS WILL OPEN AT 9:00 O'CLOCK A.M. AND CLOSE AT 12:00 O'CLOCK NOON. If you cannot vote at the polls on election day, you may vote an absentee ballot, either by mail or in the Drainage Office at the Court House in Onawa, Iowa. If voting by mail, a request form acquired from the Drainage Office must be filled out and signed by the person requesting the ballot. The request must be notarized and then sent to the Monona County Drainage Office, 610 Iowa Avenue, Onawa, Iowa 51040 before a ballot can be mailed. s/Amy Borchardt-Sick Drainage Clerk MP12-26-24, 1-2-25



Notice

NOTICE In the Matter of the Judicial Magistrate Appointing Commission For Monona County The Monona County Magistrate Appointing Commission will meet on January 2, 2025, at 3:15 p.m. at the Monona County Courthouse, Jury Room, for the purpose of appointing one magistrate for Monona County for the remainder of the term beginning August 1, 2021, and ending July 31, 2025. All applicants must be personally present for interviews on that date. 1. The magistrate must be a resident of Monona County or a resident of a county contiguous to this county during the term of office and does not qualify for appointment if at the time of ap-

pointment the applicant will have reached age seventy-two (72). 2. A magistrate shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in Iowa, except for magistrates who have held office since April 1, 2009. 3. To qualify for appointment, one must file a certified application on the forms approved by the Iowa Supreme Court. The application forms may be obtained from the office of the clerk of district court between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The completed application forms (with letter of interest and resume of qualifications attached) must be returned by returned by email to: Judge Tod J. Deck, Chair of the Magistrate Appointing Commis-

sion Email address: tod.deck@iowa-courts.gov By December 30, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. 4. The present salary for a Judicial Magistrate is \$45,484.00 per year. 5. The magistrate shall work in other counties of the district, when necessary, as assigned by the chief judge. The magistrate may be required to handle mental commitment hearings. 6. The person appointed shall attend the annual school of instruction for magistrates. 7. For information on judicial magistrate appointments, jurisdiction and procedures, see Iowa Code sections 602.6403 through 602.6405. MP12-19-24, 12-26-24

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR CRAWFORD COUNTY IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF KIMBERLEY SUE HOVENGA AND BARRY TODD HOVENGA UPON THE PETITION OF KIMBERLEY SUE HOVENGA, Petitioner, AND CONCERNING BARRY TODD HOVENGA, Respondent. CASE NO. CDCD003767 ORIGINAL NOTICE TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT: BARRY TODD HOVENGA, 908 7th Street, Grundy Center, Iowa 50638. You are notified that a petition has been filed in the office of the

Clerk of this Court, naming you as the respondent in this action. A copy of the Petition (and any documents filed with it) are attached to this notice. The attorney for the petitioner is Keith M. Buzzard, McGINN, SPRINGER & NOETHE, P.L.C., 20 North 16th Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501. The attorney's phone number is (712) 328-1566; facsimile number (712) 328-3707. You are notified that the above case has been filed in a county that utilizes electronic filing. You must serve a motion or answer within twenty (20) days after service of this original notice upon you, and within a reasonable time thereafter, file your motion or an-

swer with the Clerk of Court for Crawford County, at the Courthouse in Denison, Iowa. If you do not, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. Please see Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16 for information on electronic filing and Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16, division VI regarding the protection of personal information in court filings. If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability coordinator at 712-279-6608. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942). Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice.

Important: You are advised to seek legal advice to protect your interest. Iowa Judicial Branch Case No CDCD003767 County Crawford Case Title KIMBERLEY SUE HOVENGA AC BARRY TODD HOVENGA You must file your Appearance and Answer on the Iowa Judicial Branch eFile System, unless the attached Petition and Original Notice contains a hearing date for your appearance, or unless the court has excused you from filing electronically (see Iowa Court Rule 16.302). Register for the eFile System at www.iowacourts.state.ia.us/Efile

for file and view documents in your case and to receive notices from the court. For general rules and information on electronic filing, refer to the Iowa Rules and Electronic Procedure in chapter 16 of the Iowa Court Rules at www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ACO/CourtRulesChapter/16.pdf. Court filings are public documents and may contain personal information that should always be kept confidential. For the rules on protecting personal information, refer to Division VI of chapter 16 of the Iowa Court Rules and to the Iowa Judicial Branch website at www.iowacourts.gov/for-the-public/representing-yourself/protect-

personal-information. Scheduled Hearing: If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability access coordinator at (712) 279-6035 Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942). For more information, see www.iowacourts.gov/for-the-public/ada. Disability access coordinators cannot provide legal advice. Date Issued 11/04/2024 04:16:58 PM District Clerk of Court or/ by Clark's Designee of Crawford County /s/Shelly Herrig MP12-19-24, 12-26-24, 1-2-25

Minutes

Regular Meeting Schleswig City Council December 9, 2024 - 7:00 P.M. Mayor Winquist called the meeting to order. Council Members present: R. Hanlin, T. Bubke, P. Outhouse, T. Kluender & R. Degen. Motion made by Bubke/Hanlin to approve the agenda. All ayes. Council discussed a letter received from Judy Hamann regarding sewer fees. Sewer fees are billed with water usage. Actions will not be taken at this time for separate meters for watering lawns. Motion made by Kluender/Degen to approve the November 12, 2024 minutes. All ayes. Motion made by Outhouse/Bubke to

approve the following bills. All ayes. Ampride, Parts .....93.80 Bank Iowa, Postage/Supplies.....\$311.43 Bomgaars, Supplies.....229.61 Bt Computer, Labor.....60.00 Card Services, Tec.....h21.19 Chad's Plumbing, Water Main Repair .....5,826.78 Crawford Co Engineer's, E-16 Pmt/Mix.....43,683.46 Denison Do It Best, Filters ..99.96 Elevate Roofing, Hail Repair-Library.....9,569.00 Foundation Analytical Lab, Testing.....739.00 Great American Financial, Copier .....132.50 Internal Revenue Service, Fed/Fica

Tax.....2,215.77 Iowa Dept Of Revenue, Sales/Excise .....857.53 Iowa Finance Authority, Sewer Project .....16,940.00 Ipers, Ipers .....1,488.01 Isg, Operator Services .....700.00 Joe's Welding, Repair/Parts176.52 Kck's Food And Fuel, Fuel.....408.38 Kline Lori, Janitorial.....100.00 Kluender Kristi, Mileage.....17.42 Macqueen Equip, Parts13,100.73 Mapleton Press, Publishin Fee .....356.02 Mid American Energy, Electricity.....2,243.40 Miller Diesel, Repair.....340.00 R & S Waste, Garbage Haul-

ing.....5,779.75 Stone Office Supply, Office Supplies.....76.62 The Office Stop, Supplies.918.06 Ups, Shipping.....144.83 Us Post Office, Postage....365.00 Wcirwa, Water.....7,495.20 Wellmark, Insurance .....561.80 Accounts Payable Total .....115,051.77 August Payroll Paid.....7,757.59 Expense Report Total.122,809.36 General.....50,516.75 Road Use Tax.....28,130.56 Water.....17,669.23 Sewer.....3,773.07 Landfill.....5,779.05 Sewer Capital Project ..16,940.00 Total Funds.....78,228.48

Revenue Report Total ..64,368.50 General.....445.81 Pool Splash Pad .....0.00 Road Use Tax.....9,895.95 Employee Benefits.....0.00 Property Tax Emergency.....0.00 Lost.....8,406.96 Cleveland Loan .....0.00 Cleveland Loan .....0.00 Ent Interest.....0.09 Water.....12,959.39 Water Deposits.....0.00 Sewer.....26,616.59 Landfill.....6,04371 OLD BUSINESS: NEW BUSINESS: Motion by Degen/Kluender to approve Building Permit Application of Jim Malcom -Shed. Ayes: Hanlin,

Bubke, Kluender, Degen. Nay: Outhouse. Motion carried. Motion by Outhouse/Hanlin to approve Clerk/Treasurer Report. All ayes. Motion by Kluender/Bubke to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. All ayes. Beth Winquist, Mayor Kristi Kluender, City Clerk These are a condensed version of the proceedings of the regular meeting of the Schleswig City Council. Copies of the complete version may be obtained at the clerk's office during normal office hours MP12-26-24

MONONA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING DECEMBER 10, 2024 The Monona County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. o'clock on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 in the boardroom of the courthouse in Onawa, Monona County, Iowa with Chairman Fox presiding. Other Supervisors present: Tom Brouillette and Vince Phillips. Supervisor Absent: None. Also present was Auditor Peggy A. Rolph. Motion was made by Supervisor Phillips, seconded by Supervisor Fox to approve the agenda. Vote on motion: Ayes: Fox, Brouillette, and Phillips. Nays: None. Motion carried, Josh Schaben, Conservation Director, was present for bids on building repair from the hail damage from June. The bids are as follows: Walker Brother Roofing's bid was \$162,000, JW Graber Construction's bid was \$127,355, and Morton Building, Inc.'s bid was \$174,441. Also present were Wray Wright and Patrick Prorok, EMA Director. Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Brouillette to approve bid from JW Graber Construction for \$127,355.

Vote on motion: Ayes: Fox, Brouillette, and Phillips. Nays: None. Motion carried. Secondary Roads Engineer Charles Bechtold, Secondary Roads Foreman Dave Brown, Jared Mohr, Wally Morgan, Secondary Roads Maintenance Foreman Lucas Morton, Secondary Road Office Manager Deleta Huffman, Deputy Auditor Kelly Parsley and Wray Wright were present for Secondary Roads business. Supervisor Fox introduced and moved to adopt the following Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Brouillette: RESOLUTION NO. SR 24-36 The Board of Supervisors consents to the recommendation of the County Superintendent to transfer Dawson Richardson to fill the Vacant Operator III position. Start date is December 10, 2024. Current Classification: Operator II Current Salary: \$25.56 Proposed Classification: Operator III Proposed Salary: \$26.68 Date: December 10, 2024 Ayes: /s/ Bo Fox; /s/ Tom Brouillette; /s/ Vincent Phillips Nays: None /s/ Bo Fox

Chairman, Board of Supervisors ATTEST: /s/ Peggy A. Rolph Monona County Auditor Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Brouillette to approve wage adjustment for Dawson Richardson. He will be going from Operator II to Operator III, and his wage is going from \$25.56 per hour to \$26.68 per hour per union contract. Vote on motion: Ayes: Fox, Brouillette, and Phillips. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Supervisor Phillips, seconded by Supervisor Brouillette to approve internal posting for Operator II at the West Shop. Vote on motion: Ayes: Fox, Brouillette, and Phillips. Nays: None. Supervisor Phillips introduced and moved to adopt the following Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Brouillette: RESOLUTION NO. SR 24-37 The Board of Supervisors advises and consents to the County Engineer's recommendation to accept the quote from Jim Hawk Truck Trailers Inc., to supply 2025 Alpha HD A110 53l Lowboy Trailer to Monona County as specified. The cost is \$94,631.00. Date: December 10, 2024 Ayes: /s/ Tom Brouillette; /s/ Vincent

Phillips Nays: /s/ Bo Fox /s/ Bo Fox Chairman, Board of Supervisors ATTEST: /s/ Peggy A. Rolph Monona County Auditor Discussion items were evaluation, budgets, Engineer Conference, Foremen's monthly meeting, work being done in the shops, Christmas holiday hours. No action taken. Amy Borchardt-Sick and Tammy Blinde, Drainage Clerks, were present for Drainage business. It was moved by Fox, seconded by Phillips to approve the drainage claims. The claims are on file in the drainage office. Vote on motion: Ayes: Fox, Brouillette and Phillips. Nays: None. Motion carried. Wendy Mueller and Kelly Mahlberg, West Central Community Action, were present to update the Board on the programs that West Central Community Action provides to Monona County residents and request FY 26 funding. The programs that they offer are Head Start, Child Care Resources and Referral (CCR&R), Embrace Iowa, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), I Care-Black Hills Cares Assistance, Family Development and Self-Sufficiency

(FaDSS), Food Pantry, and Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program (IIAGP). Discussion followed with no action taken. Present, along with the Supervisors and Auditor, were Sheriff Kevin Ewing, Recorder Kelly Seward, Treasurer Abby Riesberg, and County Attorney Haley Bryan. The Christmas Holiday hours were discussed. Motion was made by Supervisor Brouillette, seconded by Supervisor Fox to close the Courthouse December 24, 25, and 26. Vote on motion: Ayes: Fox, Brouillette, and Phillips. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Supervisor Brouillette, seconded by Supervisor Phillips to approve the minutes of December 3, 2024 as read. Vote on motion: Ayes: Fox, Brouillette, and Phillips. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Phillips to approve claims. Vote on motion: Ayes: Fox, Brouillette, and Phillips. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Phillips to approve General Ledger

Journal Entry approval to correct accounts for the County Share of EMA. Vote on motion: Ayes: Fox, Brouillette, and Phillips. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Supervisor Brouillette, seconded by Supervisor Phillips to acknowledge receipt of Monona County Sheriff's Report of fees collected for November 2024. Vote on motion: Ayes: Fox, Brouillette, and Phillips. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Supervisor Phillips to acknowledge receipt of Manure Management Annual Update from Terry Mann Confinement Facility #59765. Vote on motion: Ayes: Fox, Brouillette, and Phillips. Nays: None. Motion carried. It was moved by Supervisor Phillips, seconded by Supervisor Brouillette to hereby adjourn at the hour of 11:48 a.m. o'clock. Vote on motion: Ayes: Fox, Brouillette, and Phillips. Nays: None. Motion carried. /s//Bo Fox BO FOX, CHAIRPERSON MONONA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ATTEST: /s/Peggy A. Rolph PEGGY A. ROLPH, AUDITOR MP12-26-24

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Monona County Secondary Roads Department is looking for a qualified person to fill a vacant

**MAINTENANCE OPERATOR II POSITION**

This position will report to the Area Road Foreman. The person hired to fill this position will be required to perform a variety of tasks associated with roadway maintenance throughout Monona County. Qualified applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and experience operating construction equipment related with highway maintenance. Applicants must possess a valid State of Iowa Class A CDL. This position is an on-call union position. An application is required to be considered. Applications are available at the Monona County Courthouse or online at [www.mononacounty.iowa.gov](http://www.mononacounty.iowa.gov). Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Applications shall be submitted to the Monona County Engineer's Office, 610 Iowa Avenue, Onawa, Iowa 51040 or email to [mocossec@mononacounty.org](mailto:mocossec@mononacounty.org) Monona County is an Equal Opportunity Employer, in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, the County will provide reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with disabilities and encourages both prospective and current employees to discuss potential accommodations with the employer.

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Joanna Gain sang a solo during "Share Your Goodwill."



Taylynn Comstock and Charlotte Adkins were the narrators.



Schalee Schrader shows the other Northern Cousins a greeting card from the Southern Cousins.



Eleanor Tirevold was one of the Northern Cousins.

# THE BEST GIFTS

## MVAO-Mapleton Elementary Winter Program



Micah Kovarna was the snowman.



Rylan LeFebvre was the Grandma in "Grandma's Chicken Soup."



Aurora Ingram and Braeley Gray play the clarinets and Wyatt leitz plays the trumpet as the fifth grade band performed "Come to the Manger."



Leo Dirksen plays the alto saxophone as the fifth grade band performed "Come to the Manger."



The kindergarten students wave to the crowd as they make their way out.



The MVAO Preschool opened the program with "Snowflakes, Snowflakes Falling Down."



*Ready, Set, Celebrate!*

As we look back on all of the good times we've shared with friends like you this year, we're grateful for every minute. Thanks for making 2024 a time to remember. We wish you all the best!

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Our best wishes to you and yours at the New Year. Thanks for doing business with us!

**2025**  
Happy New Year

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WISHING YOU *Happy Holidays* AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR

Wishing you and your loved one's peace, health, happiness, and prosperity.

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025**

Thanks & Best Wishes to Each One of You!

**Bonsall New Year's Hours**  
Closed Tues. Dec. 31st, & Jan. 1st

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